



OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

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County Executive

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Director

WARNING
Some people may try to take advantage of you

After a disaster, unscrupulous people will try to take advantage of victims –especially those who have just received a check.

- **Be Careful Who You Trust:** Just because someone speaks your language, it does not mean that you can trust them, or that they really will help you.
- **Identity Theft:** Do not give out your personal information to anyone unless and until you have verified who they are and why they need such information.
- **Notarios Publicos** or “notary publics” are **not** lawyers and are **not** authorized to provide legal services.
- **Hiring Lawyers:** Be sure to ask questions, make sure they are licensed in Maryland, and that they have the experience you need.
- **Stop and Think:** There is no need to rush. If someone pressures you to sign something immediately, tell them you’ll get back to them later.

Please call the Office of Consumer Protection if you have questions. We speak Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Farsi and have interpreters for other languages available.