

# DON'T FALL PREY TO **VULTURE CRIME**

Protect yourself from criminals who are  
hunting down victims in their own homes

Supported by



# Every 15 seconds someone for a scam. If it seems too good to be true, be suspicious.

Criminals are hunting down victims in their own homes. Like vultures, they prey on the vulnerable. Crafty, cunning and clever, they know how to dazzle minds and paralyse normal thought processes. Someone whose mind has been 'dazzled' will become excited and focus only on the fictitious rewards being offered.

## Don't fall prey to postal scam vultures

**Watch out** for lotteries, prize draws, clairvoyants, catalogues, secret deals, 'get rich quick' schemes and inheritance notifications.

**Think!** Never send cash, disclose personal details, or buy goods to claim a prize.

**Think!** Always seek professional advice before signing up to **ANY** type of investment scheme, including precious gems, carbon credits, solar panels, land, wine or property.

**Think!** If you fall for a scam your details could end up on what criminals call a 'suckers' list. These lists are circulated to other criminals worldwide, meaning more criminals will try to get their hands on your cash.

## Don't fall prey to phone scam vultures

**Think!** You don't have to get into discussions over the phone with anyone.

**Think!** Don't be pressurised into answering surveys. Although you might not be asked for cash, your personal information could be sold on. Keep your business as your business. Just say, "No thank you, I'm not interested", and hang up immediately.



**trueCall**<sup>TM</sup>  
STOPS NUISANCE CALLS

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## THINK JESSICA

Registered Charity No: 1148186

**Think!** Don't give out bank or credit card details. These could be used fraudulently.

**Think!** Banks and the police **NEVER** ask for pin numbers, or send couriers to collect cards.

A call blocker is a device which blocks nuisance phone calls. Think Jessica recommends 'trueCall'. Trading Standards' tests show it blocked 98% of calls.

Visit [www.truecall.co.uk](http://www.truecall.co.uk) or call **08000 336 330**.



## Don't fall prey to doorstep vultures

**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters

**Think!** Keep your front and back doors locked. If someone calls at your house, always use the chain or door bar. If it's a person you don't recognise or are not expecting, don't open the door fully. Genuine callers will be happy to arrange a future appointment. Then you can arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.

**Think!** Never agree to have work done to your home or garden by someone who knocks at your door.

If you need a tradesperson, it's easy to find someone who has been vetted and had their work monitored. Think Jessica recommends [www.checkatrade.com](http://www.checkatrade.com) or call **0333 0146 190**.



# THINK JESSICA


**THINK JESSICA PO BOX 44 42, CHESTERFIELD S44 9AS**


**[www.thinkjessica.com](http://www.thinkjessica.com)**

## MORE INFORMATION

- **If you would like Trading Standards to provide further support in relation to postal scams please fill out the contact form on the Think Jessica website or send the details to the Think Jessica PO Box address.**
- **Think Jessica DVD information packs are available for £8.00 (to cover production and postage costs). Please send a cheque or postal order made payable to Think Jessica to the PO Box address.**
- **Call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06.**
- **The Silver Line is the UK's first free and confidential helpline for older people. It is available on 0800 4 70 80 90 every day and night of the year to offer lonely and vulnerable older people information, support and protection from abuse or neglect, or just a friendly chat with someone who is genuinely interested in what they have to say.**
- **Report fraud to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)**
- **Report a loan shark 0300 555 2222.**
- **Friends Against Scams aims to raise awareness and inspire people to take action to make a difference. To find out more and become a Friend, please visit [www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk](http://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk)**

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TRADING  
STANDARDS**  
Scams Team  
Protecting Consumers  
Safeguarding Businesses



 **Chartered Trading  
Standards Institute**