

## STATION INFORMATION

**Altadena Station**  
780 E. Altadena Dr.  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(626) 798-1131

**Avalon Station**  
215 Sumner Ave.  
Avalon, CA 90704  
(310) 510-0174

**Carson Station**  
21356 S. Avalon Blvd.  
Carson, CA 90745  
(310) 830-1123

**Century Station**  
11703 S. Alameda St.  
Lynwood, CA 90262  
(323) 568-4800

**Cerritos Station**  
18135 Bloomfield Ave.  
Cerritos, CA 90703  
(562) 860-0044

**Compton Station**  
301 S. Willowbrook Ave.  
Compton, CA 90220  
(310) 605-6500

**Crescenta Valley Station**  
4554 N. Briggs Ave.  
La Crescenta, CA 91214  
(818) 248-3464

**East Los Angeles Station**  
5019 E. Third St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90022  
(323) 264-4151

**Industry Station**  
150 N. Hudson Ave.  
City of Industry, CA 91744  
(626) 330-3322

**Lakewood Station**  
5130 N. Clark Ave.  
Lakewood, CA 90712  
(562) 623-3500

**Lancaster Station**  
501 W. Lancaster Blvd.  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
(661) 948-8466

**Lomita Station**  
26123 S. Narbonne Ave.  
Lomita, CA 90717  
(310) 539-1661

**Malibu/Lost Hills Station**  
27050 Agoura Rd.  
Calabasas, CA 91301  
(818) 878-1808

**Marina Del Rey Station**  
13851 Fiji Way  
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292  
(310) 482-6000

**Norwalk Station**  
12335 Civic Center Dr.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 863-8711

**Palmdale Station**  
750 E. Avenue Q  
Palmdale, CA 93550  
(661) 272-2400

**Pico Rivera Station**  
6631 S. Passons Blvd.  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660  
(562) 949-2421

**San Dimas Station**  
270 S. Walnut Ave.  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909) 450-2700

**Santa Clarita Valley Station**  
23740 W. Magic Mtn. Pkwy.  
Valencia, CA 91355  
(661) 255-1121

**South Los Angeles Station**  
1310 W. Imperial Hwy.  
Los Angeles, CA 90044  
(323) 820-6700

**Temple Station**  
8838 E. Las Tunas Dr.  
Temple City, CA 91780  
(626) 285-7171

**Walnut/Diamond Bar Station**  
21695 E. Valley Blvd.  
Walnut, CA 91789  
(626) 913-1715 / (909) 595-2264

**West Hollywood Station**  
780 N. San Vicente Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
(310) 855-8850

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

### Credit Bureaus / To Report Fraud

Experian: (888) 397-3742

Trans Union: (800) 680-7289

Equifax: (800) 525-6285

Adult Protective Services: (877) 477-3646

### Web sites for additional information

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
[www.LASD.org](http://www.LASD.org)

Federal Trade Commission  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

United States Secret Service  
[www.secretservice.gov](http://www.secretservice.gov)

California Department of Consumer Affairs  
[www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

U.S. Consumer Affairs - ID Theft  
[www.consumer.gov/idtheft/](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/)



*Los Angeles County*  
**Sheriff's Department**  
Alex Villanueva, Sheriff

**Fraud & Cyber Crimes Bureau**  
**(562) 946-7217**

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# FRAUD PREVENTION GUIDE

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS



**FRAUD**

[WWW.LASD.ORG](http://WWW.LASD.ORG)

Within this brochure you will find some examples of current fraud, as well as important contacts for additional information and assistance.

Fraud is defined as “a deliberate deception practiced so as to secure unfair or unlawful gain.”

The Fraud & Cyber Crimes Bureau investigates several types of frauds including embezzlement, fiduciary abuse of the elderly, pyramid scams, real estate fraud, advance fee scams, bunco scams, identity theft, and major organized frauds. If you believe that you have been the victim of a fraud, contact your local sheriff's station or police department for assistance.

### ENDLESS CHAIN SCAMS OR PYRAMID SCAMS

An endless chain or pyramid scam usually starts with a friend or family member telling you of a very easy way to get rich fast with little or no risk.

You are asked to join a group or organization by contributing a sum of money, usually \$2000 to \$5000. You are then asked to attend a seminar or meeting where your investment will be described to you. At the meeting, you are told all you have to do is recruit five additional members, who each contribute the same amount of money. As each recruitment occurs, you are told you will get a percentage of the contributions. The more people recruited, the more money you will receive.

In reality, the only people who get the money are those who are at the top, usually the organizers or suspects. Those towards the bottom get nothing.

### PIGEON DROP SCAM OR LOTTO SCAM

In this type of scam, the suspects work in pairs. One befriends an unsuspecting citizen, the “pigeon” claiming to have either a large sum of money he just found or the winning Lotto ticket. He cannot go to a bank because he/she is an immigrant or another plausible sounding reason. As the first suspect is talking with the victim, the second suspect approaches and gets involved.

One of the suspects will go to the phone and call a lawyer. The suspect returns and says they can keep the money and split it three ways but to get their share, all have to put up some “good faith” money. The second suspect shows he has his money with a roll of what appears to be cash.

Everyone agrees to get the money then meet at a designated place to divide the proceeds. The victim contributes his “good faith” money as well as the second suspect, by putting the money into a bag. You are then given the bag to hold while the two suspects go to collect the money. Covertly a switch has been made, substituting worthless papers for the cash. You wait at the designated spot and after a length of time, no one has returned. You look in the bag and find only loose papers.



### ADVANCE FEE SCAMS, OR LOTTERY SCAMS

In these types of frauds, you are contacted, usually by telephone, and told you have won a grand prize which is a very large sum of money.

To collect the winnings, you must pay the taxes/fees up front for the money to be sent to you.

The money you send is usually to a location out of state or another country such as Canada or Africa. After a short period, you are contacted again and told there were problems with the winnings and you must send additional money to collect your prize.

There is no prize and there was no money.

Although there are jurisdictional issues with this type of scam such as who should investigate it, a victim should report the crime immediately to their local sheriff's station or police department.

### IDENTITY THEFT

This is the fastest growing crime in the United States and will impact one out of every four people. It is an invisible crime that victims only discover when they receive a bill, collection notice or attempt to make a large purchase such as a car.

Once discovered, it can have devastating effects on one's credit. Fortunately there have been many new laws passed, both Federal and State, to help consumers and victims of this type of crime.

If you discover you have been the victim of Identity Theft, immediately contact your local sheriff's station or police department.

### FIDUCIARY ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY OR DEPENDENT ADULT

This type of crime usually involves a caretaker, an acquaintance or even a family member. It usually involves a victim who has a reduced mental capacity due to age, medical condition or physical defect.

The suspect gains control over the victim's financial assets through deceit, force, forgery of documents or threats.

Once in control, the suspect can drain the victim's accounts and transfer the assets to themselves.

California takes this crime very seriously and has enacted laws very specific to this type of crime. The Fraud Unit has investigators assigned specifically to this type of crime.

If you suspect any type of abuse against an elderly or dependent adult, contact your local sheriff's station, police department, or Adult Protective Services (APS).

### REAL ESTATE FRAUD

Real Estate Frauds can involve the unlawful transfer or forgery of titles or deeds, adverse possession of abandoned or vacant property and loan fraud.

The Fraud & Cyber Crimes Bureau has a team of detectives who specialize in investigating these types of crimes.