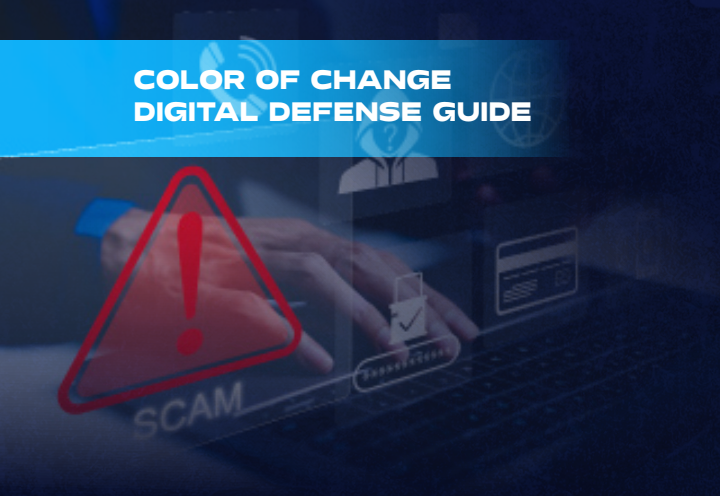
COLOR OF CHANGE
DIGITAL DEFENSE GUIDE



Do You Want to Stop Pesky Spam Email and Text Messages?

Color Of Change Best Practices to Protect Yourself Online

As a part of our Black Tech Agenda, Color Of Change believes that Black people must have individual control over their digital lives. According to Pew Research, roughly one-in-five Black or Hispanic adults are smartphone dependent, compared with a smaller share of white adults. That's why we're committed to making sure our members are equipped with the tools and knowledge to recognize scam email and text messages and protect their privacy.

Black people are more likely to receive dangerous links via email and text messages, particularly those asking for financial information. While that can be frustrating, we don't have to fear or freeze! When using your phone or desktop to access secure communications, use context clues, follow these tips and listen to your gut.

1. **Secure your device.**
Start with a strong password.

2. **Secure your contact list.**
Confirm that your saved contacts are up to date.

3. **Delete** what's no longer accurate.

4. **Verify** that the sender's information is what you expect it to be. Unfamiliar messages from an unsaved number or email address may try to impersonate a friend, colleague or organization by using ordinary language that's hard to ignore. This is likely a trap and should be avoided.

5. **Neutralize the message.** Use the "Report Spam" or "Delete and Report" feature to forward the sender's information and message to your email service provider or phone's manufacturer. Remember that some spam email and text messages will not be so obvious and will require some additional strategies. *See our one-pager on creating a strong password.*

For more information visit **coc.is/digitaldefenseguide**