



Don't let yourself be conned!

Tips from the Berlin police on various kinds of fraud

Opening a bank account

When you open a bank account, you will be given a bank card with a Personal Identification Number (PIN), with which you can withdraw money at cashpoints or pay for purchases in shops. Please follow the steps below so that no-one else can withdraw money from your account:

- Always keep your PIN number safe and separately from your bank card.
- Only pay with your bank card when there are sufficient funds in your account to cover the purchase.
- Open the account and use it for your own needs only.
- Never allow anyone else to use your account or lend them your bank card, and never let someone pay you to open a bank account.
- Don't use your bank account to forward money for other people, even if you are offered money to do so. In these cases, fraudsters may be exploiting your trust, and you may be making yourself liable to prosecution. Furthermore, you may then face very large claims for damages.

Be careful with payments in advance

It is forbidden to charge commission for the purchase of hostel credit notes or other vouchers for benefits or entitlements, and to sell queue tickets for government offices.

Irrespective of the above, if you are expected to pay in advance for goods or services, please be wary and contact the police or the consumer advice centre for information. You should also be cautious when you are told you can only rent a place to live if you pay the agent in advance.

Loss of a bank card or passport

If you have lost your bank card or passport, or these have been stolen, report it to the police and tell your bank so that no fraud can be perpetrated with those documents.

Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin

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You can find further information on
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www.polizei-beratung.de
and
www.polizei.berlin.de