



— A FIELD GUIDE CAROUSEL —

Safe words get forgotten under pressure.

When the Safe Word *Fails*



Five backup verification tactics,
ranked by order of use.

SWIPE →

When the first line of defense isn't available.



01 The Safe Word

WHAT IT IS

A pre-arranged word known only to your family.

WHEN TO USE

First line of defense when anyone claims family.

THE ACTUAL WORDS

"Before we continue – what's our word?"

WHY IT WORKS

Belongs to the category attackers cannot synthesize: private knowledge co-created by your family.



02 The Private Memory

WHAT IT IS

Ask about something never posted online.

WHEN TO USE

When the safe word doesn't come to you, or the person is a child under pressure.

THE ACTUAL WORDS

"What did we eat the night before Thanksgiving?"

WHY IT WORKS

Real family answers without hesitation. An attacker guesses, stalls, or deflects.



03

The False Detail

WHAT IT IS

Introduce something that didn't happen. See if they agree.

WHEN TO USE

When you want to confirm someone isn't reading from a script.

THE ACTUAL WORDS

"Did you like the pasta at Aunt Karen's yesterday?" (No pasta. No Karen.)

WHY IT WORKS

Scammers optimize for agreement — they play along to keep the story going. Real family says "what?"



04 The Spontaneous Request

WHAT IT IS

On video, ask for an unscripted physical action.

WHEN TO USE

When the person claims to be on video but something feels off.

THE ACTUAL WORDS

"Wave at me for ten seconds. Now show your left hand with a thumbs up."

WHY IT WORKS

Real-time video deepfakes produce artifacts on unscripted movement. Most scammers skip video entirely.



05

The Cross-Channel Callback

WHAT IT IS

Bypass the channel entirely. Call someone else.

WHEN TO USE

When nothing else works and pressure is escalating.

THE ACTUAL WORDS

"Let me call your sister first. I'll call you back in five minutes."

WHY IT WORKS

If they say "don't hang up" or resist the delay — that resistance is your answer.



— POST WITH YOUR PROTOCOL —

*If verification
can be delayed,
it's safe to delay.*

*If it can't —
that resistance is your answer.*

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