

DON'T BE A VICTIM

Cut out this portion of the flier and place it by your phone or keep it with you to remember the common lines phone scam artists often use.

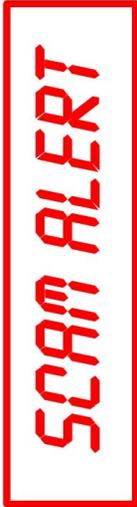
If you hear these or similar "lines" from a person claiming to be a law enforcement officer or salesperson, hang up the telephone.



Here are some common warning phrases of telemarketing fraud

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| - "We have a warrant for your arrest." | - "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize." |
| - "You have missed jury duty or a court date, and must pay a fine." | - "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." |
| - "Your (family member) is in prison & to bail them out..." | - "You don't need to check out the warrant (or company) with anyone." |
| - "You must act now, or the offer won't be good after today." | - "You don't need any written information about their company or their references." |
| - "You can't afford to miss this 'high-profit, no-risk' offer." | |

Telephone scammers are continuing to sink to new lows targeting York County citizens, but this time posing as York County Sheriff's Deputies. Recently, scammers have used the names and titles of Sheriff's Office employees to implement their crimes.



York County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Bruce M. Bryant

1675-2A York Hwy.
York, SC 29745

Phone: 803-628-3059
Emergency: 9-1-1

Crime Stoppers: 1-877-409-4321
E-mail: info@yorkcountygov.com



York County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Bruce M. Bryant

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How to identify a telephone scam.



PHONE SCAM FACTS

More than 10,000 consumer complaints filed to the site in 2014, more than 40 percent of the scams originated with a phone call, while about 30 percent originated electronically via email.

Scams cost victims over \$20 million. The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 600,000 contacts since October 2013. TIGTA is also aware of nearly 4,000 victims who have collectively reported over \$20 million in financial losses as a result of tax scams.

Ghost calls are when the phone rings, you pick up and no one answers. This could be an automated computer system calling your number and tens of thousands more building a list of potential scam targets.

Bad Business. Phone scammers cost reputable telemarketing companies millions of dollars of lost revenue each year.

Lost or stolen cell phones. Three million cell phones are stolen or lost in the US every year. Look after your cell phone as you would your wallet or purse. Thieves can steal personal information from cell phones and can make unauthorized calls costing one victim \$26,000.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET 'THE CALL'.



Resist the pressure to act quickly & don't panic. The caller may turn abusive and threaten you that an officer will be at your door in an hour, hang up then call your local police agency.



Trust your instincts. If you know you aren't in trouble or don't have a warrant for your arrest you probably don't. Also tell the scammer that you will call them back after you have done your own research into their claims.



Don't rely on caller ID. Scam artists often times use technology to make it appear their calls are coming from a local law enforcement agency or legitimate business.



Listen closely. If a caller uses poor grammar and/or has a heavy accent be on alert, many fraudulent calls originate overseas.



Never wire or mail money. Wiring money is like giving away cash, once you send it you can't get it back. Some scammers will ask you to put money on a prepaid card from a local pharmacy or convenience store.



Protect your identity. **Never** under any reason should you give your social security number or credit card information over the phone.



Don't call back. If you believe a scammer has left a message on your phone, Citizens are urged to not call back. The con-artists will attempt to make the caller send cash, money order or MoneyPak Green Card to an address.



Types of Telephone Fraud

Scammers use exaggerated — or even fake — prizes, products or services as bait. Some may call you, but others will use mail, texts, or ads to get you to call them for more details. Here are a few examples of threats or offers you might hear:

- IRS - you owe taxes or have to pay penalties
- Using the names & titles of actual police officers.
- You missed jury duty or court
- Computer Technical Support
- Free Travel Packages
- Final notice to extend car warranties
- Easy money Credit or cash loans
- Charitable causes - Urgent requests for disaster relief efforts
- Foreign lotteries
- "Free" trial offers
- Fake bank alert messages
- Vote from your phone. This is not possible and illegal



BE AWARE OF POLICE IMPERSONATORS

A law enforcement officer

WILL NEVER

request or demand payment or solicit money via the telephone, internet, or any electronic means. If you receive one of these calls, just hang up the phone. Next, contact the York County Sheriff's Office or your local law enforcement agency to report the incident.