
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE



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NATURE OF STORY: Phone Scammers Claiming to be Law Enforcement

The Lane County Sheriff's Office has received multiple reports of a new wave of phone scams. Scammers are claiming to be from the "Lane County Sheriff's Department" or the "US Marshal's Office Civil Division." Community members are told by the scammers that they have outstanding warrants, unpaid citations, or have failed to appear at jury duty and can remedy the issue by purchasing gift cards. After the cards are purchased, the callers will ask for the numbers on the cards which allow access to the gift card funds.

Scammers are calling from the numbers 541-357-3302 and 541-327-9121, though additional calls may be made from other numbers. The numbers are equipped with voicemail messages claiming to be one of the above listed governmental agencies. A male with a slight southern accent has also answered the line.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office would like to remind community members to be cautious of phone calls demanding payment in the form of gift cards. When returning a phone call that you think might be a scam, use the publicly listed number for that agency. If you are the victim of a phone scam and have lost money as a result of the scam, please report it to your local law enforcement agency. If you did not send any money, you do not need to call and report it.

RESOURCES

Community members can report fraud to the Oregon Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline by calling 1-877-877-9392.

You can visit the Federal Trade Commission website at the below link for more information on recent scams and to learn how to receive scam alerts.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>

Information on phone scams from the Federal Trade Commission can be found at the link below.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams>

Additional information on court scams can be found here:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/news/2016/03/29/court-scams-affect-citizens-nationwide>

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