
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE



DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE: 12/18/2018 2:00 pm

NATURE OF STORY: Scammers claiming to be Sheriff's Office employees

DETAILS:

Phone scammers are at it again. A community member recently reported receiving a call from a man claiming to be a Lieutenant from the Lane County Sheriff's Office warrants section. The scammer asked the community member to call him back at 541-658-7006 extension 13, which is set up with a voicemail message stating that the caller has reached the Sheriff's Office. The community member looked up the publicly listed number for the Sheriff's Office and was able to confirm suspicions that the call was a scam.



Scammers often ask for payment in the form of gift cards or cash cards to remedy a warrant for missing jury duty or unpaid parking tickets. The Lane County Sheriff's Office does not make phone calls to community members regarding warrants and would never ask a community member to purchase "cash cards" to pay fees.

These calls are a scam, and community members should hang up immediately and not engage with the caller. Scammers typically target an area and make several calls over a period of a few days to multiple people. *Help us stop these scammers from victimizing others by telling your friends and family about these scam calls so they recognize the call for what it is and hang up.*

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 lose any money, you do not need to call and report it. Below are some tips to decrease your chances of becoming a phone scam victim:

- Never provide personal information to callers, including your name, address, or banking information.
- Be aware of callers who are unprofessional, pushy, or use scare tactics such as threatening arrest if payment is not made.
- Callers asking for payment through wire transfer, cash cards such as green dot cards, or other non-trackable methods are signs of a scam. Legitimate government agencies will not ask you to provide payment using these methods.
- Do check the caller's information. If they claim to be from a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, call the publicly listed phone number for that agency to verify the caller's authenticity.

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

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