



SANTA CLARA COUNTY
SHERIFF



SCAM ALERT!! Thieves are making phone calls to residents, claiming to be from the Sheriff's Office, the I.R.S., or other local branches of government and requesting money or "green dot" numbers to settle an outstanding arrest warrant. **Don't fall for this scam!**

The Sheriff's Office has received numerous calls in recent months from residents reporting that they have been contacted by someone over the phone telling them that they are from the Sheriff's Office or from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The person then says that there is a warrant out for their arrest, but they can settle the warrant by sending bail money or by purchasing a green dot card at a local store and providing the service numbers on the card. **Green dot cards have service numbers on them, and anyone with the numbers can use the cash on the card.**

Another type of phone-call scam involves the caller telling the potential victim that they have won a large prize. The caller will then say the person must send money or green dot numbers to pay for shipping or as a way of holding onto their prize while the details are processed. Residents should never give out any credit card information or personal information over the phone to someone they do not know or trust.

Other phone-call scams target the elderly. The person on the line will say they are the person's grandson or granddaughter. The person pretending to be a grandson or granddaughter will then say they've been arrested in Mexico or elsewhere, and they need to send bail money by purchasing a green dot card and providing the numbers. The caller will tell the unsuspecting grandparent not to tell their parents or anyone else and to hurry to send the money.

One thing that these scams have in common is that they always try to keep the caller on the line at all costs, and they pressure the caller with an urgency to send money, green dot numbers, or credit card information. Don't give in to their pressure tactics. Slow the process down to independently verify if what they are saying is true.

These callers present themselves as professionals and are smooth talkers. If someone calls and represents themselves in one of the ways described in this notice, ask them for their name and phone number and tell them you will call back after verifying with your local law enforcement agency. Don't become a victim. **If something doesn't feel right about the call, listen to your instincts and take steps to verify.**

If you have been contacted in a phone-scam but did not lose any money, you can report it to the FTC at 1 (888) 382-1222. If you actually lost money due to a scam phone call, you should report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency. For residents living in Sheriff's Office jurisdiction, please call our dispatch at (408) 299-2311.