

FRAUD ALERT

April 2018

Jury Duty No-Show

The “jury duty” scam has returned to Bucks County once again. Several residents have reported to the Bucks County Court Administration Office that they have received phone calls claiming that the resident had failed to show up or report for jury duty.

The would-be victim of this call may be caught off guard and reply that they had never received notice to serve on jury duty. The scammer may then try to convince him/her that they need to verify information such as Social Security numbers, birthdates and bank account information. They may also tell them that they will be fined and that payment must be sent right away or the fine could go up significantly.

Don't become a victim of this scam.

Bucks County Consumer Protection and the Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force staff want you to know that there are many variations of this scam but, basically, you receive a telephone call from someone posing as law enforcement officials, members of the U.S. Marshals Service, bailiffs or court clerks. They tell you that you have failed to appear for jury duty or answer a court summons, and that there is an active warrant out for your arrest.

You may see that on your caller ID this call's number show as originating from a courthouse or police department as these scammers use “spoofers” to alter the real number they are calling from.

Scammers may put further pressure by mentioning the names of actual officers, court representatives or town officials. Their aim is to get the victim to pay a “fine,” and divulge personal information.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) warns:

If a fake Marshal — or any other government imposter — calls and tells you to send money to avoid arrest:

- Don't send money by prepaid card and do not wire money. Wiring money is like sending cash. You usually cannot reverse or trace the transaction.
- Don't share your financial or personal information. Scammers can use your information to commit identity theft.
- Don't trust a name or number that appears on your phone. Scammers can fake caller ID information.

If you received a call like this, please report it to the FTC at www.ftc.gov/complaint or call **1-877-FTC-HELP**.

Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office

215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) 1-800-675-6900

www.crimesagainstolderadultsbucks.org

A Woman's Place (AWP)

1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection

215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505