



Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers of Green Valley, Arizona, Inc.

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SCAM OFFICE – 351-6715

SCAMS HAPPENING IN GREEN VALLEY

GOVERNMENT FAKE COMMUNICATIONS – Jury Duty, IRS, FBI Notice, Social Security, Medicare

An email or phone call notifies you that there is a problem. *EXAMPLES: missed jury duty, money is due for federal taxes, verify your SS number or Medicare number.* The issue must be resolved immediately. Payment is required or police officers will come to your home and arrest you. County, state, or federal offices generally make an initial contact via a letter sent by USPS. Look in the phone directory or on the internet for the appropriate government phone number. Always call that number to verify any communication. County or federal police will not appear to arrest you.

LOTTERY WINNER

You were notified by telephone, mail or email, that you have won money and/or a car. The prize could be from the United States or another country. To obtain the prize, taxes or processing fees must be paid. There are no processing fees or taxes on legitimate prizes. Remember, if you did not enter, you cannot win plus foreign lotteries are illegal in the United States.

MEDICAL DEVICE

A letter, email or phone call informs you that a free medical device is ready to be shipped. Just supply a credit card or bank account number to cover shipping costs. **DO NOT FALL FOR THIS.**

GRANDPARENT OR FRIEND NEEDING HELP PHONE SCAM

A grandchild, another relative or friend is in trouble, arrested, or stranded. Hang up. Call the relative or friend to verify the information.

VIRUS WARNING OR BANK SCAM

Victims receive a phone call, email, or text that opens the opportunity for a scam. Two examples are described. A phone call or email for Microsoft or another company identifies a virus is in your computer. Hang up or delete immediately. Turn off your computer. No business operates that way.

An email, text or phone call from your bank requests information to verify your account. A bank will not contact you for this type of information. If there is no response, a threat of closing your account might occur. Hang up or delete. Call your bank. Do not click on any part of an email; it might put a virus into your computer.

PACKAGE DELIVERY SCAM

A letter, card, or email identifies an unsuccessful delivery attempt by UPS, FedEx or DHL. Call that delivery firm to confirm. Do not call the number in the letter, card or email.

CONTINUING SERVICE OR MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

Be aware of offers of these contracts. Are these valid companies, where are the contracts honored, and has the fine print been reviewed?

LEGAL COMMUNICATIONS

A letter or email from an attorney or government official offer the opportunity to receive funds that are generally located in another country. Just provide personal information and payment to assist the processing so your funds can be sent. Do not become a victim for this fake offer.

VETERAN SCAMS

A veteran scam may include a Department of Veteran Affairs call requesting updated information. The VA will not call, text, or email to update your information. Be aware of fake rental offers for veterans that require a security deposit via a wire transfer. Other fake classified ads offer a large ticket item from a deployed service member who must quickly sell and requests an upfront wire transfer or gift card payment. Fake charities that use names similar to legitimate charities may reference veterans, military families, or active military. Use www.charitynavigator.org or www.give.org to research and verify. Finally, utilize VA accredited representatives, listed at the VA Office of General Council website, when discussing veteran benefits.

FAKE CHECK --Possible Examples: Mystery Shopper, Craigslist, EBay

An authentic looking check arrives in the mail. You are instructed to deposit the check and send a portion to the company or person to cover fees, expenses etc. Later your bank will advise you that the check is bogus. By following instruction, you would have been out of the money sent for fees and your bank may no longer wish to have your account.

PUBLIC WI-FI

Connection to the Internet in a public space comes with significant risk. Never do anything on public WI-FI involving a password, credit card number, or a bank account.

REPORTING POSSIBLE SCAMS

Social Security – 1-800-772-1213

Medicare – 1-800-633-4227

Federal Trade Commission – 202-326-2222, www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, Social Security number, or credit card number without your permission with the intent to commit fraud or other crimes. These crimes may take many forms as thieves rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, change the direct deposit for Social Security, or establish a phone account in your name.

If you feel you are a victim, act quickly! Keep a record with the details of your conversations and copies of all correspondence. The longer you wait, the greater the damage to your credit. File a report with your local Sheriff Department. Contact your bank and credit card companies. Place a fraud alert on your credit report and review your credit report. You only need to submit an alert to one of the following credit bureaus:

Transunion: 1-800-680-7289, www.transunion.com

Equifax: 1-800-766-0008, www.equifax.com

Experian: 1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com