

MONTH | ISSUE  
April | No. 14  
2017

## SCAM ALERT!



A Consumer Update from Mat Heck, Jr., Prosecuting Attorney



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Montgomery County Prosecutor

### The "Missed Subpoena" Scam

Thieves have started utilizing the court system in an attempt to scam citizens out of money. Specifically, in February of 2016, reports were made in Lucas County, Ohio regarding a Grand Jury subpoena scam.

Individuals in Lucas County reported that they had received phone calls from an individual who claimed to be with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office. During the call, they were told that they had failed to comply with a subpoena to report to Grand Jury. As a result, they were told, a warrant had been issued for their arrest. The scam artist communicated that the individual could pay \$485.00 to have the warrant withdrawn. Per the victims, they were given an option to

submit payment at the Lucas County Sheriff's Office or pay with a credit card over the phone.



The same scam was repeated here in Montgomery County close to a year later.

Similarly, an individual reported that they had received a phone call informing them they had failed to comply with a Grand Jury subpoena.

The scam artist stated that the failure to comply resulted in a \$495.00 fine. Payment could be made at 200 W. Second Street, the location of the Federal Courthouse. Failure to pay would result in arrest. Luckily, the individual called our office, whereby she was notified of the fraudulent nature of the call.

It is unclear whether the same individuals are responsible for both scams.

### **HOW TO REDUCE YOUR RISK:**

Reducing risk in these situation requires knowledge of how the Courts will communicate with you about court-ordered responsibilities.

Specifically:

- Any instructions for jury duty or court appearances will be served through the mail or personally by a Sheriff's Office employee;
- The only calls made regarding compliance with subpoenas usually are from the Prosecutor's Office to insure that individuals are aware of their court dates;
- If there ever is a call regarding compliance with a subpoena, do not provide the caller with any personalized information or financial account information;

- If there are concerns about the validity of a call, hang up and call your local law enforcement agency or our office to confirm whether the information being relayed to you is accurate;
- Once again, there is never a situation where you should be required to pay money as a result of failing to comply with a subpoena.

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN THE EVENT YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:**

- Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office: 937-225-5757;
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: 937-225-4357;
- Dayton Police Department: 937-333-2677

The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Oliver, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

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