



SCAM ALERT!

A Consumer Update from
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Don't Be A Victim!

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Every day, con artists attempt to victimize consumers. If successful, they can seriously impact your life. These tips can help you avoid becoming a victim of fraud:

- ◆ Offers that sound too good to be true—usually are.
- ◆ Beware of any offer that guarantees success or unusually high returns.
- ◆ Verify companies with the Better Business Bureau and check their references.
- ◆ Foreign lotteries are illegal in the U.S. You can't win!
- ◆ Shred confidential documents instead of discarding them.
- ◆ Check bank and credit card statements for fraudulent charges.
- ◆ When using an ATM, be sure no one can see your card number or pin.
- ◆ Never give personal information or account numbers over the phone to strangers.
- ◆ Don't put your social security number on your driver's license or checks.
- ◆ Don't carry your social security card in your wallet.
- ◆ Monitor new credit card arrivals.
- ◆ Have new checks delivered to your bank.

You are entitled to a free credit report every year from each of the three credit reporting bureaus. A free credit report is available online at www.annualcreditreport.com. If you find any mistakes on your credit report, immediately close the account and contact the fraud units of the three credit reporting bureaus. If you suspect you are a victim of identity fraud, contact your police department. These simple, yet effective tips can help prevent you from being a victim!

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 Jennifer Heapy, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Sarah Schenck, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

If you would like us to send *SCAM ALERT* updates to you electronically, please send your e-mail address to: newsletter@mcpo.com to be added to our distribution list.