

Jan.
2020

SCAM ALERT!



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



MAT HECK, Jr.
Montgomery County Prosecutor

BEWARE OF CONTRACTORS SEEKING TO EXPLOIT TRAGEDY

Montgomery County was hit with several tragedies over the course of the past year. Tornadoes ravaged the region leaving thousands of citizens with damage to their homes. Scammers have taken this tragedy and attempted to use it for enrichment. Individuals pretending to be legitimate contractors have scoured affected neighborhoods handing out business cards offering home repair. Many of these individuals are only seeking money with no intention of ever performing work. These scammers perform an inspection, provide an estimate, and demand money for materials to start work. Once the money is paid, the homeowner:

- Never sees the scammer again;
- Gets subsequent requests for more money to start the job; or
- Sees minimal work performed and then cannot get in touch with the individual for completion of the job.

Citizens, who have already suffered, are left suffering financial hardship as a result of looters exploiting tragedy.



HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK:

Investigate the credentials of any contractor/individual doing this type of work. Contact the Better Business Bureau to see if they have any information on the contractor. Ask the contractor/individuals for the contact information of people they have done work for in the area. Call those people to get reports of whether they are satisfied with work performed. Go to the locations of work they say they performed and examine and talk to the homeowners. Never give large lump sum payments that seem excessive for covering the cost of materials. If, after giving an initial payment, subsequent requests are made for more money prior to initiation of work, call the police immediately.

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED:

Call the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Consumer Fraud Unit at 937-225-4747 and ask for a Fraud Investigator.

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 Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office
info@mcpo.com



MCPO, PO Box 972, Dayton, OH 45422

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@mcpo.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact® 

Try email marketing for free today!