



SCAM ALERT!

A Consumer Update from
Mat Heck, Jr.
Prosecuting Attorney



Dayton-Montgomery County Courts Building, P.O. Box 972, 301 W. Third St., Dayton, OH 45422 (937) 225-5757

Caller ID “Spoofing”

When the Caller ID is not who is calling

MAY 2013

A new method of scamming, referred to as caller ID “spoofing”, is helping thieves commit various schemes, such as home improvement, credit card and bank fraud, far more convincingly than ever before.

In caller ID “spoofing”, criminals will call you and alter the name and number that appears on your caller ID screen to read whom ever they want you to believe is calling. They can alter the name and number so that it appears to be a call from your bank, credit card company or even a government office. The thieves will then ask you for personal or account information to “verify” your account. They are trying to get your information so they can use it to open an account in your name and run up a bill or make purchases using your existing credit card number. Or they may attempt to take money directly out of your account. Whatever the method, they are attempting to use this new technology commit a very old crime – stealing your money.

Tips to avoid being a victim of the spoof:

- Never give out your personal or account information to anyone who calls you, regardless of how official the caller seems.
- The “spoofing” only fools your caller ID, it does not reroute the call itself. Therefore, if you are concerned, hang up and call your bank or credit card company at the number on your statements or on the company’s website and tell them that you received a suspicious call and report what information the caller was interested in obtaining.
- You can report “spoofing” calls to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at 1-888-CALL-FCC, by filing a complaint online at www.fcc.gov/complaints, or by contacting your local police department.

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 Ward Barrentine, 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@mcpc.com to be added to our distribution list.