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SCAM ALERT!



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



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SCAMMING THE SCAMMED - THE NEW SCAM

Sometimes the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is able to return money to people who were ripped off in a con artist's scheme. But scammers try to cause confusion and take advantage of victims at every step.

If you lost money in a scam, you might get a call or email from someone claiming that they can help you recover your funds - but only **if** you pay them, hand over personal information, or allow them remote access to your computer. DON'T DO IT! Recent complaints to the FTC show that scammers are:

- Targeting people who already lost money to tech support scams;
- Claiming to be from the FTC's Refund Department or Refund Division;
- Using the names of real FTC employees.



So how can you tell whether an FTC refund is real?

If the FTC contacts you about a refund, you'll find information about the case at www.ftc.gov/refunds. You can also use this website to verify the phone numbers and links you receive are legitimate.

The FTC **never** requires you to pay fees or asks for your sensitive information, like your Social Security Number or bank account information. The FTC also **never** asks for remote access to your computer. If someone claims to be from the FTC and does, it's a SCAM.

If you get a call from someone who **says** they're from the FTC but asks you for money or sensitive information, it's a SCAM.

You should consider reporting to the Federal Trade Commission any requests for remote access, money, or sensitive information that you receive at www.ftc.gov/complaint.

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.

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