



A law enforcement officer WILL NEVER request or demand payment or solicit money via the telephone, internet, or any electronic means.

If you receive one of these calls, just hang up the phone.

Next, contact the York County Sheriff's Office or your local law enforcement agency to report the incident.

YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



803.628.3059
Emergency 9-1-1



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YORK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*A helpful guide to identify telephone
scams & threats to financial identity theft.*





PHONE SCAM FACTS



WHEN YOU GET 'THE CALL'



TYPES OF PHONE SCAMS

- ***Some 15.4 millions consumers were victims of identity theft or fraud in 2016**, up 16% from 2015.
- ***Scams cost victims more than \$16 million in 2016**, up from 15.3 million in 2015.
- **Ghost calls** are when the phone rings, you pick up and no one answers. This could be an automated computer system calling your number and tens of thousands more building a list of potential scam targets.
- **Bad for Business.** Phone scammers cost reputable telemarketing companies millions of dollars of lost revenue each year.
- ****That's a Billion with a 'B'** - Consumers received more than 9-Billion calls from known scammers in 2017
- ****IRS Scams.** In one survey 40% of 1000 participants say they received calls from someone impersonating the IRS. Cruise/vacation scams (25%) and bank/credit card scams (16%).
- **Robo Calls** have made it cheap & easy for scammers to make illegal calls from anywhere in the world, & to hide from law enforcement by displaying fake caller ID information.



Resist the pressure to act quickly & DON'T PANIC. The caller may turn abusive and threatens you that an officer will be at your door in an hour, hang up then call your local police agency.

Trust your instincts. If you know you aren't in trouble or don't have a warrant for your arrest you probably don't. Also tell the scammer that you will call them back after you have done your own research into their claims.



Don't rely on caller ID. Scam artists often times use technology to make it appear their calls are coming from a local law enforcement agency or legitimate business.

Listen closely. If a caller uses poor grammar and/or has a heavy accent be on alert, many fraudulent calls originate overseas.



Never wire or mail money. Wiring money is like giving away cash, once you send it you can't get it back. Some scammers will ask you to put money on a prepaid card from a local pharmacy or convenience store.

Scammers use exaggerated – or even fake – prizes, products or services as bait. Some may call you, but others will use mail, texts, or ads to get you to call them for more details. Here are a few examples of threats or offers you might hear:

- IRS - you owe taxes or have to pay penalties
- Using the names & titles of actual police officers.
- You missed jury duty or court
- Computer Technical Support
- Free Travel Packages
- Final notice to extend car warranties
- Easy money credit or cash loans
- Charitable causes - Urgent requests for disaster relief efforts.
- Foreign lotteries
- "Free" trial offers
- Vote from your phone. This is not possible and illegal.
- "Phishing" ie. Apple support call saying your iCloud account has been hacked. Asking for credentials to fix the problem.
- 'Smishing' - short for SMS phishing. Legit looking text messages from your bank asking for account numbers.
- 'Robo Calls' - Hang up & Don't Press 1 or any number to speak with an operator - it may lead to more Robo Calls