



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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SHERIFF

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Media Advisory

FRAUD ALERT: SCAMMERS POSING AS SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTIES TARGET PUBLIC BY PHONE

San Francisco, CA - Thieves claiming to work for the San Francisco Sheriff's Office have been calling residents by phone and demanding thousands of dollars as part of an imposter scam.

The individuals will often call from a spoofed caller ID "SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY," identify themselves as a specific deputy or sergeant, and threaten arrest for failing to respond to a federal warrant or subpoena, for not appearing for jury duty, and for not taking care of citations. Sometimes the scammer will say that the Department already mailed the victim a letter of documentation and that the person didn't appear for a scheduled court date.

In lieu of arrest, they will demand that a fine be paid, with payment occurring in person, by wire, or by gift card. Demands for money have ranged from \$5,000-\$10,500. One victim reported to the SFSO that she fell prey to the scam.

The San Francisco Sheriff's Office does not collect fees of any type over the telephone from members of the public. Those persons who receive a similar phone call are asked to call 415 553-1969 or 911 in case of emergency. If you believe that you were the victim of a scam, and the case is under the SFSO jurisdiction, our Criminal Investigations Unit will investigate to determine if fraud was committed.

If there is no monetary loss but you wish to report a scam, you can file a report online at www.IC3.GOV (<http://www.ic3.gov/>) (FBI – Internet Crime Complaint Center) and at www.reportfraud.ftc.gov (<http://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov/>) (Federal Trade Commission).

Please remember not to give away any personal information over the phone, or to verify any information that the caller may appear to have about you.

In this particular case, it does not appear that any one group is being targeted such as the elderly. A person's age or immigration status should never be a deterrent from reporting suspicious activity.

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