

Posted on: July 3, 2019

Fallen Officers Phone Scam



Another phone scam is targeting Humboldt County residents claiming to be from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

A local resident contacted the Sheriff's Office reporting that she received two calls this week claiming to be someone from this agency. The scammer told the resident that they were raising funds for fallen officers and would like her to make a donation. The scammer told the resident that they would send her an envelope in which she could use to send her donation.

The Sheriff's Office would like the public to know that this is a scam. Our agency is not conducting any fundraisers at this time.

Remember these tips to help protect yourself from fraud:

1. Spot imposters

Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity or a company with which you do business. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request – whether it comes as a text, a phone call or an email.

2. Do online searches

Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam." Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like "IRS call." You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.

3. Don't believe your caller ID

Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.

4. Talk to someone

Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.

5. Don't rely on personal information

Living in the digital age, access to information is easier than ever. Scammers are often able to get their hands on very personal information, providing it to their victims to make their scam look more legitimate. Don't trust a scammer who is able to provide your personal information. If you followed the above tips and still aren't sure, call back at a publicly listed number for the organization from which the scammer claims to be or contact your loved one directly.

Sign up for the Federal Trade Commission's scam alerts at ftc.gov/scams.

Visit <https://www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds#item-35157> to learn how to report scams.