



Salisbury Police Department
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45th

PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – FRAUD SCAMS

During the last 4 weeks, the Salisbury Police Department received multiple reports on several internet and telephone scams. In one scam, a telephone caller falsely advises the victim that a close relative, often a child or grandchild, has been arrested. The suspect then requests money in order to provide for the release of the family member. The suspect caller will often represent themselves as a law enforcement official. Legitimate police agencies do not solicit money for the release of someone who is detained.

A second scam involves the victim responding to online home rental advertisements, only to send a monetary deposit to a suspect who is in no way associated with the actual property. These frauds are normally facilitated on websites that list classifieds, and may involve telephone or email conversations with the suspect.

Other scams surrounding lottery and sweepstakes, employment/income opportunities and fraudulent sale agreements are also common. Research indicates that these and similar scams are being perpetrated in jurisdictions nationwide. Elderly victims are often targeted in these incidents. Families with elderly members are encouraged to frequently review financial arrangements and management with their loved ones to ensure that they do not fall victim to fraud.

The following tips are provided to reduce your chance of becoming a fraud victim:

- Do not provide your social security number over the phone or internet
- Do not provide account numbers or make ANY payments to unsolicited callers or email contacts. Legitimate businesses should already have your information when they contact you, and existing processes for payment collection that you should examine carefully before sending money.
- If you have any concern regarding the legitimacy of a caller or email contact, do not re-contact them at the number that they provide. Utilize contact numbers that are listed on your existing bills or account documents to ensure that you are speaking with a legitimate company representative.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding a possible scam, contact the company directly, discuss the matter with a responsible party or contact your local police.

Lt. Jason King

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