



PRESS RELEASE

Case #13-511879

Warrant Payment Scam with Deputy Sheriff Impersonator

September 4, 2013—The Washington County Sheriff's Office and local police agencies have received complaints from citizens concerning a warrant payment scam. The subject would ask for a payoff to avoid arresting the person that supposedly had the warrant.

The subject would call a citizen at random and identify himself as a Washington County Deputy Sheriff and that the citizen currently has a warrant for their arrest. The subject would tell the victim that they would be arrested if they did not buy a Green Dot prepaid card in a specified amount and pay them to clear the warrant. Once the victim had the card, the subject would arrange a location to meet them and get the card. The subject would threaten to come to their house and arrest them if they didn't pay. The victim did the right thing by calling to report the suspicious situation and not meeting this person.

No law enforcement agency will ever call demanding money to clear a warrant or for any other reason. If a person has a warrant for their arrest, a law enforcement officer is required to take them into custody and not take any type of payment to clear the warrant. We are advising anyone who receives a call like this to call and report it immediately. Attached is a voicemail audio recording that was left when the caller didn't reach someone in person on the phone (use Windows Media Player).

There have been reports to other law enforcement agencies with similar circumstances. This is a concern for law enforcement. This scam is a variation of other scams where people will call or email with the promise of something in exchange for cash, Green Dot prepaid cards, money wires, or any other form of payment that involves urgent payment. The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens to never send money in any form to someone you don't know. These requests are generally an attempt to cheat you out of your money.

Investigators are seeking the public's help regarding this case. If you have any information, or have recently received a solicitation that seemed suspicious, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 629-0111.