



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Scam Alert

Location of Incident: Yuma County

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to inform the public of ongoing government imposters and fraud schemes involving the Social Security Administration. Scammers may call or email saying they are from Social Security and that the person's social security number is suspended or was used in a crime. The caller identification may be spoofed to appear as a legitimate government number, including that of law enforcement agencies. Social Security will never call you to demand immediate payment, ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone, ask for gift cards or wire transfers, or threaten you with arrest.

Here is a list of other common scams:

- Jury duty scam:** The caller pretends to be someone from the courthouse who claims that you failed to report for jury duty and a warrant has been issued for your arrest. You are then offered a choice to either pay the warrant or have an officer sent over to arrest you. The scammer will demand that the fine be paid by money transfer or by gift card.
- Warrant scam:** You get a phone call from someone posing as a law enforcement officer who claims you have an outstanding warrant. The scammers may even use names of local officers in order to make the scam seem legitimate. They will instruct you to wire funds or pay by gift card to clear the warrant.
- IRS scam:** The caller says they are from the IRS and that you have to pay taxes or a fine. They will instruct you to wire funds or pay by gift card.
- Tech Support scam:** Someone calls from tech support, maybe saying they're from Apple or Microsoft, saying there is something wrong with your computer.
- Romance scam:** You meet someone special on a dating website, but then they need money and ask you to help them. This romance scammer makes up any story to trick you into sending them gift cards.
- Grandparent scam:** The caller pretends to be a friend or family member in an emergency and asks you to send money right away—but not tell anyone. This is a scam. If you are worried, hang up and call your friend or relative to check that everything is all right.
- Lottery scam:** The caller says you have won a prize but first, you have to pay fees or other charges with a gift card. Remember, no honest business or agency will ever make you pay with a gift card. Also, did you even enter that sweepstakes?
- Utility scam:** The caller says they are from your power company, or another utility company. They tell you to pay your bill by gift card immediately or they will cut off your service. Utility companies do not work that way.

•**Fake check scam:** You get a check from someone buying something from you, probably online, for way more than you expected. They tell you to deposit the check and then give them the difference on a giftcard. However, that check will be fake and you will be out all that money.

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to remind the public that no legitimate business, government, or law enforcement agency would ever call you demanding money. Please advise family members that if a call is received as the ones described, to hang up and contact law enforcement.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist