



## Office Of The Sheriff - Henry County

# Press Release

11/29/2017

### Henry County Sheriff Warns of a Fraud Alert Scam!

There is a telephone fraud sweeping the Henry County area and Henry County residents are being victimized. It starts when residents receive telephone calls from dishonest persons identifying themselves as Henry County Sheriff's Office employee's. Be wary, this is an attempt to intimidate their victims into paying them hundreds of dollars.

This scam can be run by using a variety of phony scenarios to make the potential victim believe they owe money to the Sheriff's Office where the scammer **pretends to work**. They use a method to camouflage their telephone number to look like a local law enforcement number. This is called "spoofing". They then tell the persons who answer that they failed to show up for Jury Duty or pay a traffic ticket. As a result they say there is a warrant out for their arrest for failure to appear. If the victim believes the story they will then be told that the warrant can be dropped if they will pay the fine of \$300 to \$600.

If the victim agrees, the caller then tells them to go to a retailer that sells prepaid cards. This method is preferred because of the ease to transfer funds from one card number to another and the difficulty for the government to track the transfers of the ill-gotten gains. If the potential victim says they can't get to a prepaid card outlet, the scammer may then ask for a credit card number.

Once the victim puts the money onto a prepaid card, they call the telephone number given to them by the scammer and tell them the number of the card containing the money. The criminal electronically transfers the funds using the card number provided by the victim to a card number they established.

Sheriff Keith McBayer wants residents to understand that the Henry County Sheriff's Office does NOT solicit payment of fines via telephone and does **NOT** take payment of fines via prepaid cards. The Sheriff is unaware of any other law enforcement agency, court or federal agency that does this form of transaction.

If a credit card number was provided, call your credit card company as soon as possible and report this fraudulent transaction.

Sheriff McBayer also advises anyone receiving this type of call to hang up and report it to your local law enforcement agency.