

HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

2016-0115

HONOR



COURAGE



INTEGRITY

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT – SCAM ALERT

Don't fall for



phone scams



Recently the Harlingen Police Department has received reports of a possible scam occurring in the Harlingen area. The scam involves a fraudulent caller who represents himself or herself to the caller as a relative (grandchild, niece, nephew, etc.,) and advises that they are in jail in a foreign country (Mexico, Canada, etc.,). The caller asks for money (could be in the form of gift cards, wire transfers, etc.,) in order to secure release from custody. Community members should be aware that this is an ongoing scam utilized throughout the United States to prey on innocent victims. The Department is actively looking into these cases where circumstances permit. Anytime that a person receives a call and is asked in any way to send money you should immediately be suspicious.

The following are additional active scams commonly reported throughout the Country:

Telephone calls from persons claiming to be an I.R.S. agent in an attempt to collect "outstanding taxes". The caller may even threaten jail time if the recipient of the call does not respond accordingly.

The "Nigerian Letter" - An unsolicited request for modest financial assistance in exchange for a great deal of money. Whatever the pitch, the central feature of the scam is to ask for an upfront payment to cover transaction costs in order to receive a bigger and better payout, which never occurs.

The Harlingen Police Department took this opportunity to educate our community on active scams. Please call the Harlingen Police Department or your local Law Enforcement Agency to report any suspicious calls or communications.



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