



FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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List of Known Scams

It is unfortunate that opportunists look to take advantage of people. Please be watchful and aware. The FCSO will be updating this list of known scams as we receive credible information.

Bench Warrant Scam

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has received several phone calls in regards to a phone scam circulating throughout Franklin County. Individuals receive a phone call from a person claiming to be a Deputy Sheriff, (names vary to include actual deputy names), stating that there is a bench warrant for the individuals arrest for failing to appear for jury duty. The person then asks for a sum of money (cash in most instances) to be brought immediately to a location in order to avoid incarceration. The number may appear as a local number as the caller is most likely spoofing; however, the call could be coming from anywhere and is extremely hard to trace.

Megan's Law Warrant Scam

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has received information that people on Megan's Law lists are being contacted, (possibly by a Sgt. Walters) advising individuals that they need to have a new DNA sample or make a payment (usually with gift cards) to keep from being arrested.

Gift Card Scam

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has received information that a representative is calling local citizens asking for donations and gift cards for needy people.

Court Administration Fine Scam

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) has received information that citizens are receiving phone calls from someone reporting to be Franklin County Court Administration, and that they are collecting fines for not appearing for court.

Surplus Proceeds Predatory Action

If your property sells at a sheriff sale, and post-sale you receive a letter or phone call from a company stating they will help you claim any surplus funds, this may be a "scam." These companies are for-profit companies or individuals exploiting your situation and circumstance. They make claims that they can locate excess proceeds and distribute them to you for a fee, in an expedited manner. Their business tactics are predatory and aren't affiliated with the court, trustee, sheriff, or your lender. Any homeowners that may have surplus monies being held by a Sheriff in Pennsylvania may contact that particular Sheriff's Office to claim said funds, or ask case related questions. No outside company is needed to accomplish this, nor can they speed up the disbursement process which is prescribed by law.

Recommendations

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office reminds residents to be watchful and cautious when answering phone calls. If something does not seem correct about the call, report the suspicious call to your local police department or sheriff's office. If you become the victim of a scam, notify your financial institution and your local law enforcement agency immediately.