



YAKIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT UDELL, Sheriff

DETECTIVE DIVISION

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Media Release

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Telephone Scams

Yakima – Our office is reminding citizens of Yakima County of persistent telephone scammers demanding money for several reasons.

The scams our office receives most are of IRS scams, missing a court date, or ignoring a jury summons. The scammers claim to work for a local law enforcement agency informing the potential victims that there is a warrant out for their arrest or there is a fine to pay. They will threaten to come to arrest the person if they don't pay them.

A most recent scam is a robocall pretending to be from the Social Security Administration. They leave a voicemail informing you that your social security number has been suspended and to press option one. Social security numbers do not get suspended.

The scammers are very convincing and tenacious. The scammers say they will take payment over the phone by using credit cards, Western Union, Green Dot cards, iTunes cards, gift cards, or by depositing checks into the innocent victim's bank account.

Our office is warning citizens that the IRS doesn't call people that owe them money. Law enforcement does not call people to let them know that they have a warrant. Law enforcement does not collect money for warrants or fines and would never ask individuals to pay over the phone. Citizens would always pay fines through the courts, in person, and not with gift cards.

If you become a victim of this scam, you can report it on the Federal Trade Commission website or with your local law enforcement agency. The FTC website has tips on how to protect yourself from being a victim and you can read about other common scams.



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