

West Goshen Township Police Department



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PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 10/13/15	PREPARED BY: JRT	APPROVED BY: C. # 37 [Signature]	INCIDENT # 2015-20135
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NATURE OF INCIDENT: AUTO ACCIDENT DUI CRIME OTHER

Theft by Deception Phone Scam

The West Goshen Police Department is investigating a Theft By Deception Scam. The victim received a telephone call from a person who identified himself as being a "Chester County Sheriff". The suspect advised the victim that he "Missed Federal Jury Duty" and as a result was in "Contempt of Court". The victim was advised that if he did not pay a fine he would be arrested. The suspect then directed the victim to obtain \$3000.00 in "Pay Pal Cash Cards" from a local drug store. Once the Pay Pal Cash Cards were obtained the victim provided the suspect with the Identification Numbers on the rear of the cards which allowed the suspect instant access to the money.

The West Goshen Police Department would like to make the residents of the West Goshen Township aware of this scam. If you receive a telephone call similar to this you are encouraged to terminate the telephone call and contact your local police department to make a report.

SHERIFF WARNS OF PHONE SCAMS

Bogus Phone Calls threaten Bench Warrants for Failure to Appear for Jury Duty

Sheriff Carolyn Bunny Welsh has issued a warning to Chester County residents regarding a phone scam. Welsh stated "there is an organized effort on the part of individuals attempting to scam residents of Chester County. We need to inform our citizens that these calls are bogus and do not originate here in the Chester County Sheriff's Office."

In various parts of the Chester County, residents are being targeted by bogus phone calls and threatened with arrest by Deputy Sheriffs on a bench warrant for failing to report for jury service in Chester County Court.

In some reported cases, the bogus caller identifies themselves using the name of an actual Chester County Deputy Sheriff, and the Caller ID is being spoofed to make it appear as if the call is actually being made from a Sheriff's Office number. In other cases, the bogus caller is identifying themselves as a member of a "Warrant Department" and uses ranks and titles that seem to be legitimate

In the calls, threats are made that a bench warrant will be served unless the person answering the phone goes to a convenience store or pharmacy and purchases a greendot MoneyPak card in amounts ranging from \$300 - \$1,500, and then calls the caller back with the MoneyPak card numbers. Sometimes the caller tries to coerce those called into providing confidential personal or financial data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud.

Welsh states "All residents should be warned to never share sensitive information with anyone you don't know. Unfortunately there are criminals who use many types of scams and frauds to take advantage of individuals and families. We need to provide all information possible to protect our citizens."

The Chester County Court does not require anyone to provide sensitive information in a telephone call, nor to purchase any kind of monetary device to avoid arrest. Most contact between the court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. Mail, and any phone contact by real court officials will not include requests for social security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information.

Persons receiving such a telephone call should not provide any requested information, and instead should hang up and contact their local police department. They can also notify the Jury Services Office 610-344-6174 or the Chester County Sheriff's Office at 610-344-6850.

For additional information please contact: Carolyn Bunny Welsh, Chester County Sheriff 610-344-6855

NOTE: The greendot MoneyPak Website (<https://www.moneypak.com/>) and (<https://www.moneypak.com/ProtectYourMoney.aspx>) contains good information about how to avoid fraudulent use of their MoneyPak cards.