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PROSECUTOR WARNS HUNTERDON COUNTY RESIDENTS OF RECENT PHONE SCAM

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, has issued a warning about a recent phone scam that has been targeting residents of Hunterdon County.

According to Prosecutor Kearns, “The New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC) has received numerous reports of phone scams known as Wangiri, which is Japanese for “one ring and drop.” Automated dialing machines work through large ranges of phone numbers, intentionally ringing one time, repeatedly, and frequently at random intervals. These phone scams show up as unrecognized or spoofed missed calls hoping the target calls back. If successful, the threat actor attempts to keep the target on the phone as long as possible, as the call has potentially been routed to a premium rate service to be automatically billed hefty charges. Incoming calls may appear as spoofed domestic and international numbers, unknown caller, or no caller ID. Spoofed international calls have appeared to be calling from countries such as Slovenia, Belarus, and Morocco. If the target blocks unrecognized or suspicious numbers, threat actors stay ahead of the game and change the numbers they use. It is not possible to block calls that appear as unknown caller or no caller ID.”

Prosecutor Kearns added, “The NJCCIC highly recommends users refrain from answering unexpected calls from unknown international or unusual numbers, and returning calls received from unknown or suspicious numbers. You are advised to hang up immediately upon callback if an odd message is heard. Users are encouraged to explore and implement call-blocking options and to check voicemail messages on another phone from unknown or suspicious numbers. The NJCCIC advises users to review the Federal Communications Commission [Consumer Guide](#) and our publication [Tired of Receiving Scam Calls? Don't Just Sit There. Do Something About It](#) for additional information and tips about phone scams.”

If you are targeted by a phone scam you can report the incident via the Cyber Incident Report Form on the NJCCIC website, your local police department, and the FBI via your local field office.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com, or through the free “P3 Tips” smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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