

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor.htm](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor.htm)

## MEDIA RELEASE – FEBRUARY 26, 2021

### REPORTS OF SCAM THEFTS

Acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Michael J. Williams, Sheriff Frederick W. Brown, and Acting Chief of Detectives Frank R. Crisologo are alerting the public to a recent theft scam.

According to Acting Prosecutor Williams, “On February 25, 2021, numerous scam calls were received, allegedly from the Hunterdon County Sheriff’s Office, telling people that they had failed to report for jury duty. The caller stated that warrants were going to be issued for their arrest unless they paid a fee to avoid issuance. One woman paid \$1,500.00 in green dot cards to avoid being arrested.”

Sheriff Brown added, “The Hunterdon County Sheriff’s Office will never contact anyone demanding money to avoid arrest. The IRS, Social Security, utility companies, or any other reputable company will not call demanding immediate payment. All citizens should be reminded to never give out any personal information or make any payments over the phone. Anyone receiving a scam call should contact their local police department to report the call.”

Following a few simple precautions, most people can avoid becoming a victim of a confidence scheme.

**E-mails:** Do not reply to unsolicited emails or links attached to e-mails.

**Telephone Callers:** Do not engage in conversations with anyone you do not know, especially about money.

**Verify:** If you are suspicious, contact the company or agency the caller allegedly represents by using the official listing for their customer service.

**Scare tactics** are used by thieves to demand money or personal information. Do not simply accept as valid telephone calls, e-mails, and threats concerning bad credit, police, arrest, investigation, or an audit from an alleged governmental agency; you must verify. These are scams meant to scare unsuspecting persons into hastily fulfilling such demands.

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Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at [www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com](http://www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com) or through the free "P3 Tips" smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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