



Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 6, 2021

County Sheriff Warns Residents of New Scam Activity

Sheriff Fred W. Brown has brought information regarding scams throughout the past year to residents, reminding the community about the different tactics' criminals will use to inflict harm and cause severe financial and personal damage to anyone who becomes their victim.

Recent scams include offers of money to potential victims in exchange for financial or personal information, bail money needed for a loved one, jury duty, court warrants, job applications and employment, IRS and social security scams, disaster scams, Holiday Fair booth scams, and currently Sheriff Brown is receiving multiple complaints regarding homeowner's title scams and utility company bill scams.

Sheriff Brown said, "All year long criminals find scams which target vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, victims of a disaster, or they will target the holidays when extra funds offered are especially attractive".

Utility company scam calls often involve a threat to cut off power or heat, something that would never be done over the phone. Funds or banking information should not be shared with anyone claiming they are calling from a utility.

Title scam callers inform recipients that personal information is needed to prevent a fake title being filed for their home. Residents should always decline to offer information that is personal over the phone to anyone.

Scare tactics have become more sophisticated; staying informed is the best way to protect yourself."

Sheriff Brown asks any resident receiving these scam calls to hang up immediately and call their local law enforcement office.

Scam alerts and information have been placed on Sheriff Brown's website, [here](#).

Sheriff Brown also encourages residents to report this information to the Federal Trade Commission on their website, [Scam Alerts | FTC Consumer Information](#) or the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs office, <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/>.