

City of Dadeville



Dadeville Police Department

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Press Report

If it sounds too good to be true, then it is. Over the past few months we have seen an increase of scams involving the elderly, anything from mystery shopper, sweep stakes, work at home and so on. Most of the scams go something like this. The scammers call or email you telling you that you have won a large sum of money but in order for you to receive the money you will have to pay the taxes on it and you are to go to your bank and withdraw a certain amount of money then wire it to an unknown location via Western Union, or buy green dot cards and call the number left by the scammer and give them the card number. Most of these scammers are off shore or overseas and is out of reach of US Authorities.

One victim reported that for about the past six months she has been in contacted with certain people who work for a company that she does not know. She states that when they communicate the number is always blocked. She has sent a total of \$500.00 by Money Gram and also using a Green Dot Credit Card they also told her that she could only use Wal-Mart to wire the money. One of the persons is a female that she knows only by the name of Tina. She did have a contact number for this person and it was out of Jamaica Tina informed her that she needed to wire \$3000.00 USD in order to receive her 2.5 Million Dollars and new car. A male by the name of Justin Williams called and told her that he would deliver the car on 07/19/2012 and that he lived locally. Names used were aliases.

On 8/2012 Dadeville Police contacted by a Dadeville woman in reference to Theft of Property 1st. The victim received call from a blocked number on her cell phone from a male with Jamaican type accent informing her that she had won Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes in amount of \$250,000.00 but would need to prepay the taxes on the prize. She was instructed to purchase Green Dot cards and mail them to at least three different addresses. She received several calls from this same individual who identified himself as "John Henry McGree". She was instructed to give him the identifying numbers from a Green Dot card and over a period of approx three days paid him \$11,000. After she stopped sending money the calls became threatening in nature.

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Here are some other scams that are going on complements of Better Business Bureau and US AmeriBank Customer Services and Federal Trade Commission.

The BBB has issued a nationwide warning about a new scam claiming that President Obama will pay your utility bills through a new federal program.

Consumers have been contacted through telephone calls, fliers, social media, text messages, and word-of-mouth with claims that the federal government is providing credits or applying payments to utility bills.

To receive the money, scammers claim they need the consumer's Social Security and bank routing number and/or account number. In return, customers are given a fraudulent bank routing number to use when paying their utility bills through an automated service.

The payment service initially accepts the payment, but then declines it within a few days when the bank account number is discovered to be fake. The consumer's bill has not been paid, and their personal financial information and Social Security number have been compromised.

The BBB has these tips to avoid becoming a victim of this scam:

Never provide your social security number, credit card number or banking information to anyone requesting to anyone who calls you, regardless of whom they claim to be representing.

If you receive a call claiming to be your utility company and feel pressured for immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call the customer service number on your utility bill.

Never allow anyone into your home to check electrical wiring, natural gas pipes or appliances unless you have scheduled an appointment or have reported a utility problem. Also, ask utility employees for proper identification.

Always think safety first. Do not give in to high pressure tactics over the phone for information or in person to get into your home.

For more information about identity theft scams, please visit the BBB online at: www.bbb.org.

This message is to notify you of two fraudulent e-mails in circulation claiming to be from the FDIC. Please consider both to be fraudulent.

The first fraudulent email includes statements pertaining to the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 and the Investor Protection Law under the Securities Act of 1933. The contact information claims to be befdic.gov@execs.com, and the area code of (646) is used is for the Washington Office. The FDIC does not have email addresses @execs.com and (202) is

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the area code for the Washington Office. A form, which is attached to the cover letter, purports to be an "FDIC Claimant Verification" form. It too is fraudulent. The second fraudulent email claims to originate at support@fdic.gov and pertains to ACH transactions. The recipient is told that an ACH transaction has not been delivered; the recipient is requested to download the update via a link.

These e-mails are fraudulent and were not sent by the FDIC. Recipients should consider these e-mails as an attempt to steal money or obtain personal or confidential information from the recipient. Recipients should NOT, under any circumstances, send funds as requested or provide any personal financial information. Also, please do not click on the links provided in the fraudulent emails, as this may load malicious software onto end users' computers. As a reminder, the FDIC does not send unsolicited emails to consumers or business account holders.

What is identity theft?

Identity theft involves acquiring key pieces of someone's identifying information, such as name, address, date of birth, social security number and/or mother's maiden name, in order to impersonate them. This information enables the identity thief to commit numerous forms of fraud. These may include, but are not limited to, taking over the victim's financial accounts, opening new bank accounts, purchasing automobiles, applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits, renting apartments, and establishing services with utility and phone companies.

The information contained in this guide provides the actions recommended by the U.S. postal inspection service, and the financial industry to help reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of identity theft.

The last section provides names and phone numbers of the agencies referred to in the following information.

PREVENTIVE ACTIONS:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.
- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection mailboxes or at your local post office. Do not leave in an unsecured mail receptacle.
- Never give personal information over the telephone, such as your social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank pin code, unless you initiated the phone call. Protect this information and release it only when absolutely necessary.
- Shred pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills and other financial information you don't want before discarding them in the trash or recycling bin.
- Empty your wallet of extra credit cards and ids, or better yet, cancel the ones you do not use and maintain a list of the ones you do.

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- Order your credit report from the three credit Bureaus once a year to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies.
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, trash receptacles, or unattended gasoline pumps.
- Keep track of all your paperwork. When you no longer need it, destroy it.
- Memorize your social security number and all of your passwords. Do not record them on any cards or on anything in your wallet or purse.
- Save all credit card receipts and match them against your monthly bills.
- Be conscious of normal receipt of routine financial statements. Contact the sender if they are not received in the mail.
- Notify your credit card companies and financial institutions in advance of any change of address or phone number.
- Never loan your credit cards to anyone else.
- Never put your credit card or any other financial account number on a postcard or on the outside of an envelope.
- If you applied for a new credit card and it hasn't arrived in a timely manner, call the bank or credit card company involved.
- Report all lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- Closely monitor expiration dates on your credit cards, contact the credit card issuer if replacement cards are not received prior to the expiration dates.
- Beware of mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions offering instant prizes or awards designed solely to obtain your personal information or credit card numbers.
- Sign all new credit cards upon receipt.

INTERNET AND ON-LINE SERVICES

Use caution when disclosing checking account numbers, credit card numbers or other personal financial data at any Web site or online service location unless you receive a secured authentication key from your provider.

When you subscribe to an online service, you may be asked to give credit card information. When you enter any interactive service site, beware of con artist who may ask you to "confirm" your enrollment service by disclosing passwords or the credit card account number used to subscribe. Don't give them out!

Who to contact for copies of your credit report:

- Equifax, P.O. Box 105873 Atlanta, GA 30348-5873 Telephone: 1-800-997-2493
- Experian Information Solutions (Formerly TRW) P.O. Box 949 Allen, TX 75013-0949 Telephone: 1-888-397-3742

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- TransUnion P.O. Box 390, Springfield, PA 19064-0390 Telephone:
1-800-916-8800

ACTION STEPS FOR IDENTITY THEFT VICTIMS

Contact all creditors, by phone and in writing, to inform them of the problem.

Call your nearest U.S. Postal Inspection Service office and your local police

Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem

Call each of the three credit bureaus' fraud units to report identity theft. Ask to have a "Fraud Alert Victim Impact" statement placed in your credit file asking that creditors call you before opening any new accounts.

Alert your banks to flag your accounts and contact you to confirm any unusual activity. Request a change of PIN and a new password.

Keep a log of all your contacts and make copies of all documents. You may also wish to contact a privacy or consumer advocacy group regarding illegal activity.

Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline.

Contact the state office of the Department of Public Safety to see if another license was issued in your name. If so, request a new license number and fill out the DMV's complaint form to begin the fraud investigation process.

WHO DO I REPORT IDENTITY THEFT TO

Equifax Credit Bureau, Fraud 1-800-525-6285

Experian Information Solutions (formerly TRW) 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion Credit Bureau, Fraud 1-800-680-7289

Federal Trade Commission 1-877-FTC-HELP

On Line Complaint, <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>

Local Police Department's:

Alexander City Police Dept. 256-234-3421

Dadeville Police Dept. 256-825-6212

Tallapoosa County Sheriffs Dept. 256-825-4264

U.S. Postal Inspection Service (See federal government phone list)

U.S. Postal Service (local post office) (see federal government phone list)

Social Security Administration, Fraud Hotline 1-800-269-0271

This is just the tip of the iceberg of the many scams that are going on throughout the country.

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