

IRVING POLICE DEPARTMENT



INFORMATION RELEASE

Information Release Financial Scam



Irving, Texas, April 10 – The Irving Police Department has recently seen a rise in the number of complaints from residents who have fallen victim to a financial scam. Specifically, the victims are contacted by someone impersonating an Internal Revenue Service agent who demands immediate payment for monies owed to the IRS. Additionally, the scammers are posing as officers with the Irving Police Department who are working in collaboration with the IRS. The victims are threatened with immediate arrest, criminal prosecution and, in some cases, deportation if they do not comply with the payment demands. As a result, several victims have suffered monetary losses to the scam.

The scams are thought to originate overseas; however, the scammers appear to be using technology to mask their identity. Of particular concern is the use of Voice over Internet Protocol as a means to place the calls and the use of “spoofing” software to manipulate the caller identification number. In some cases, a telephone number assigned to the Irving Police Department was used to make it appear as if the call originated from the police station. Another hallmark of the scam is the suggested payment method of green dot MoneyPak cards. Many times the caller remains on the phone with the victim and dictates specific instructions on the purchase and redemption of the MoneyPak cards.

The Irving Police Department would like to suggest the following protective measures to anyone who is contacted under the aforementioned circumstances:

- Write down names and identification numbers of someone claiming to be with the IRS or Irving PD;
- Tell the caller you will call them back at a number you know to be legitimate (find it on your own using the phone book or online);
- If possible, record the conversation using an audio recording device;
- NEVER send money using green dot MoneyPak cards particularly if you do not otherwise owe money;
- NEVER give out or confirm your personal identifying information to someone you do not know;
- Do not be threatened or bullied by the impersonator; legitimate agents and officers should always conduct themselves in a professional manner;
- Realize that a legitimate government agency would not demand the use of Western Union, green dot or MoneyGram as a means of payment;
- Report any such occurrences to the Irving Police Department, the IRS or at www.ic3.gov.