



COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURT HOUSE
P.O. BOX 311
NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
19404-0311

<http://sheriff.montcopa.org>

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**



RUSSELL J. BONO
SHERIFF

WILLIE G. RICHEL
CHIEF DEPUTY

GREGORY L. WOMELSDORF
CAPTAIN



<http://www.facebook.com/montcosheriff>

[@MontCoPASheriff](https://twitter.com/MontCoPASheriff)

SHERIFF OFFICE DAY: 610-278-3331
NIGHT: 610-275-1222
FAX: 610-278-3832

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Contact: Teresa Harris, Public Information Assistant
tharris@montcopa.org
610-278-5955/Office

Montco Sheriff's Office warns against spoofing scammers

Norristown, Pa., (September 4, 2014) – Telephone scammers posing as Montgomery County Sheriff's Office deputies have been threatening citizens with arrest and demanding cash. Sheriff Russell Bono is warning citizens against these scammers, who are calling as far away as Texas.

Bono had previously issued a warning against active scams in July but, no one had been affected at that point. However, at least one victim has reported a loss of \$600 as a result of this new scam.

"We had a couple from Washington, D.C. drive all the way up to our offices in fear of being arrested as a result of these scammers," said Sheriff Russell Bono. "Another couple, who was threatened with a warrant for their arrest, came in today from Pottstown."

The scammers intimidate citizens by telling them they owe money to the IRS, or that there is a warrant out for their arrest. Scammers are using sophisticated methods such as "spoofing" caller ids, so that it matches the telephone number of the Sheriff's Office Warrants Division. They also use official titles and ranks, and callback numbers that have voice mail messages closely resembling the MCSO's Warrants Division. Victims are told to buy Green Dot Money Pak prepaid cards from local drugstores in amounts ranging from \$300.00 to \$1,500. Then, they are to call the scammers back with the prepaid card numbers.

“I want to make sure people understand that the Sheriff’s Office never handles money and doesn’t call citizens unless a warrant has already been issued,” Bono said.

The cases have been referred to the Montgomery County Detectives Bureau for further investigation. Victims of this crime should immediately call the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office at 610-278-3331 or email sheriffoffice@montcopa.org to report the incident. Complaints can also be filed with the resident’s local police department or, the U.S. Attorney’s Office Eastern District of Pennsylvania by calling 215-861-8200 or online at http://www.justice.gov/usao/pae/report_a_crime.htm.

To listen to the recording of the bogus message click here:

<http://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/7839>. Please visit www.montcopa.org/sheriff for more information. Follow the MCSO on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/montcosheriff and **Twitter** @MontCoPASheriff.

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