



**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. RICHT**  
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

## **SCAM ALERT: October 29, 2015**

Contact: Teresa Harris, Public Information Assistant  
[tharris@montcopa.org](mailto:tharris@montcopa.org)  
610-278-5955/Office

### **Montco Sheriff's Office warns about scam calls coming from the "sheriff's department"**

**Norristown, Pa., (October 29, 2015)** – Telephone scammers posing as Montgomery County Sheriff's Office law enforcement continue to threaten citizens with arrest and demand cash.

"I recently received calls from concerned citizens saying they had been called by someone, who said they were from my office," said Sheriff Russell J. Bono. "This is an ongoing problem that everyone needs to be constantly aware of."

In the past, scammers have used various methods to intimidate citizens. Some say that citizens 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 Warrants Division phone number.

"These recent calls from scammers are from phone number 610-233-8481," said Bono. "When I called the number, the recording said I had reached Lt. Michael Ellis of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department. We don't have any staff by that name."

Sometimes 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 told to call the scammers back with the prepaid card numbers.

"The Sheriff's Office never handles money and doesn't call citizens unless a warrant has already been issued," Bono said. "Never give out your personal information unless you initiated the call, or it's someone you know."

Victims should report these calls to their local police department.

For more information about the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, please visit [www.montcopa.org/sheriff](http://www.montcopa.org/sheriff). Follow the MCSO on **Facebook** at [www.facebook.com/montcosheriff](http://www.facebook.com/montcosheriff) and **Twitter** @MontCoPASheriff.