Police Phone Scam

The Prince William County Police Department has received reports of scammers using a phone number connected to the Police Department. Scammers use an unregistered phone number, and caller ID with spoofing technology, to make the call appear as if it’s coming from a Prince William County government phone number. The scammers are claiming to be family members in need of money. Please be aware, the Prince William County Police Department does not call residents to solicit funds or donations.

AS A REMINDER...

Don’t rely on caller ID to verify who’s calling. It can be nearly impossible to tell whether the caller ID information is real. Here are a few tips for handling these calls:

- If you get a strange call from someone claiming to represent local, state, or federal government, hang up. If you want to check it out, visit the official (.gov) website for contact information. Government employees won’t call out of the blue to demand money, gift cards, or account information.
- Don’t give out, or confirm to the caller, your personal or financial information.
- Do not wire money or send money using a reloadable card. In fact, never pay someone who calls out of the blue, even if the name or number on the caller ID looks legitimate.
- Feeling pressured to act immediately? Hang up. That’s a sure sign of a scam.

Want more tips for avoiding scams? Check out 10 Ways to Avoid Fraud.

If you’ve received a call from a scammer, with or without fake caller ID information, report it to the FTC and the FCC.

Resource: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2016/05/scammers-can-fake-caller-id-info