



CITY OF PEEKSKILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2 Nelson Ave, Peekskill, NY 10566
Telephone (914)737-8000 Fax (914)737-1446



DETECTIVE DIVISION

SCAM ALERT

THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL POLICE DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING SEVERAL SCAMS WHERE UNSUSPECTING VICTIMS ARE SENDING MONEY TO UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS WHO OFTEN RESIDE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

UTILITY COMPANY SCAM:

THE VICTIMS ARE SOMETIMES CONTACTED BY U.S. MAIL, PHONE, OR EMAIL. THE SUSPECTS OFTEN IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF A LOCAL UTILITY COMPANY. THE VICTIM IS TOLD THAT THEIR BILL IS PAST DUE AND THAT IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID INTERUPTION OF UTILITY SERVICES. THE VICTIM IS SOMETIMES ASKED TO PROVIDE THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO THE CALLER. IN SOME CASES THE VICTIM IS ASKED TO PURCHASE A PRE PAID GREEN DOT CARD, OR OTHER PRE PAID CARD. THE VICTIM THEN PROVIDES THE PRE PAID CARD INFORMATION TO THE CALLER. IN OTHER CASES THE VICTIM IS ASKED TO WIRE MONEY VIA WESTERN UNION TO THE CALLER.

LOTTERY SCAM:

THE VICTIM RECEIVES A LETTER INFORMING THEM THAT THEY HAVE WON A LOTTERY. THE LETTER USUALLY HAS POST MARKINGS FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE LETTER INFORMS THE VICTIM THAT IN ORDER TO COLLECT THEIR WINNINGS THEY MUST SEND MONEY VIA WESTERN UNION TO A PERSON WHO IS CLAIMS TO BE AN ATTORNEY OR LOTTERY AGENT. THE MONEY REQUESTED IS FOR LEGAL FEES, OR PROCESSING FEES, SO THAT THE VICTIMS WINNINGS CAN BE SENT TO THEM.

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REAL ESTATE SCAM:

THE VICTIM FINDS AN APARTMENT FOR RENT ON CRAIGS LIST, ZILLOW, HOT PADS, OR SIMILAR WEB SITE. THE AD IS SOMETIMES FALSE, AND IS COPIED FROM AN ACTUAL REAL ESTATE LISTING. THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS CHANGED AND INTERESTED VICTIMS CONTACT THE PERSON WHO POSTED THE FALSE LISTING. THIS PERSON WILL IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS THE HOMEOWNER, OR REAL ESTATE AGENT. THE VICTIM IS TOLD TO GO AND VISIT THE PROPERTY ON THEIR OWN. THE VICTIM WILL SOMETIMES GAIN ACCESS TO THE PROPERTY BY THE CURRENT TENANT(S) AND IF INTERESTED THE VICTIM WILL RE-CONTACT THE PERSON CLAIMING TO BE THE PROPERTY OWNER, OR REAL ESTATE AGENT. THE VICTIM WILL BE ASKED TO WIRE MONEY VIA WESTERN UNION FOR A DEPOSIT OR PAYMENT. THE VICTIM THEN MAKES ARRANGMENTS TO MOVE INTO THE PROPERTY. THE VICTIM USUALLY FINDS OUT ABOUT THE SCAM WHEN THEY TRY TO ARRANGE UTILITIES FOR THE PROPERTY.

TO AVOID BEING THE VICTIM OF THESE OR ANY OTHER SCAMS DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY PERSONAL OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE. CALL YOUR UTILITY COMPANY IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY ANYONE WHO WANTS TO COLLECT A PAYMENT FROM YOU. DO NOT RESPOND TO ANY LETTERS CLAIMING THAT YOU WON A LOTTERY. CHANCES ARE IT'S A SCAM IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO THAT COUNTRY TO PURCHASE A LOTTERY TICKET. CALL A RELATIVE OR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IF YOU THINK YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A SCAM ATTEMPT.

PEEKSKILL POLICE DEPARTMENT (914)-737-8000
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