



## Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Richard R. Schmidt  
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **\*UPDATED ALERT\***

### **Sheriff Schmidt Issues Updated Phone/Email Scam Alert**

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff Richard Schmidt is alerting the public to a new angle being used in a phone scam. The Sheriff's Office received several reports from citizens who received phone calls or emails using a sheriff's captain's name and threatening arrest for failure to pay fines associated with missing jury duty.

One person fell victim to the scam, losing more than \$700 by purchasing pre-paid gift or credit cards, scratching off the code boxes and reading the numbers to the scammer. After giving the codes on the cards, the scammer transfers the money to their own untraceable accounts.

In the updated scenario, the scammers are also emailing, using a sheriff's captain's name in a non-county email address similar to the actual county email. County emails do not originate from yahoo, gmail, or similar independent accounts.

The scammers are also providing a number to call where they have copied a real county voicemail recording, but it is connected to the scammer's phone lines. In addition to preying on the elderly, the scammers are now focusing on medical professionals who may pay rather than take time to question the purported fines.

Sheriff Schmidt said, "the Sheriff's Office DOES NOT call or email citizens threatening arrest for failure to pay fines. If you receive a similar call, hang up. If you fall victim to the scam and suffer monetary losses, report the call by email to [Sheriff@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:Sheriff@milwaukeecountywi.gov), or by phone to 414-278-4705."

The phone numbers scammers use mirror actual Sheriff's Office numbers, a concept referred to as "spoofing." *Spoofing* occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. *Spoofing* is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally.

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