



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**York, PA** – The Office of the District Attorney is encouraging members of the public to be vigilant in light of two scams that seem to be targeting members of our community. The Phone Scam is one in which has previously been reported, but seems to be increasing in frequency and the second is a newer scam that attempts to utilize rental properties through Craig's List.

#### **Phone Scan**

An increasing number of phone scams have been victimizing residents of York County. The caller claims to be a Deputy with the York County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) or another local, state or federal agency. The scammer aggressively claims the resident has failed to do any number of things, ranging from jury duty to paying taxes and tells the resident he/she owes a fine that must be paid immediately in order to avoid being arrested.

There is a common element in all of the phone scams – the caller seeks immediate payment via gift card, money pack or to meet the Deputy somewhere to transfer money. The York County Sheriff's Office will never contact County residents via telephone to seek monetary payments for fines, warrants, taxes etc.

If you receive a suspicious phone call from someone demanding payment, do not hesitate to contact the York County Sheriff's Office @ 717-771-9601 to verify the validity of that call before giving anyone money.

#### **Craig's List Property Rental Scam**

We have recently become aware of a potential scam regarding Property Rental Listings on Craig's List.



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Individuals are taking authentic listings from Real Estate Websites, copying photographs from the listing and then posting the same residence for "RENT" on Craig's List. The actor will then ask the person who responds to the listing to send a deposit and/ or rent in exchange for keys to the property which will never be sent.

The following advice for avoiding scams is copied directly from Craig's List:

### Avoiding Scams

**Deal locally, face-to-face —follow this one rule and avoid 99% of scam attempts.**

- Do not extend payment to anyone you have not met in person.
- Beware offers involving shipping - deal with locals you can meet in person.
- Never wire funds (e.g. Western Union) - anyone who asks you to is a scammer.
- Don't accept cashier/certified checks or money orders - banks cash fakes, then hold you responsible.
- Transactions are between users only; no third party provides a "guarantee".
- Never give out financial info (bank account, social security, PayPal account, etc.).
- Do not rent or purchase sight-unseen—that amazing "deal" may not exist.
- Refuse background/credit checks until you have met landlord/employer in person.
- "craigslist voicemails" - Any message asking you to access or check "craigslist voicemails" or "craigslist voice messages" is fraudulent - no such service exists.

More information regarding how to protect yourself from Scams on Craig's List can be found at the following link: <https://www.craigslist.org/about/scams>. If you believe you may have been a victim of one of these scams please contact your local Law Enforcement Agency and/or the District Attorney's Office @717-771-9600.