



December 21, 2018

(U) Key Points

- (U) The Virginia State Police, the Virginia Fusion Center, and the Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center have observed numerous fraudulent telephone scams involving police impersonation.
- (U) The scammers claimed to be police officers and provided a valid Virginia State Police telephone number to verify their claims. In some cases the scammers did follow-up contact and claimed to be Social Security officers or Attorney Generals.
- (U) The scammers falsely made claims that the victim’s identity had been stolen, the victim had current criminal charges/warrants pending, and the victim needed to send money immediately in order for the charges to be cleared.
- (U) The scammers most often requested the money be transferred or wired into an account; however, gift cards as payment was also demanded.
- (U) In some cases, the scammers communicated with their victims through Whatsapp, a free messaging application.
- (U) If the victim blocked the scammers’ telephone number, the scammers persisted to call from an “unknown” or ‘blocked” telephone number.

(U) Best Practices

- (U) Law enforcement will never contact citizens and request payment to clear warrants.
- (U) Be cautious of Caller ID. Technology has made it possible for scammers to spoof or fake the number they are calling from.
- (U) Do online searches. Type phrases that describe your situation into a search engine or search the incoming telephone number and see if others have reported similar scams.
- (U) Do not give in to pressure to take immediate action.
- (U) Do not provide your credit card number, bank account number, or other personal information to a caller.
- (U) Do not send money in any form.
- (U) Regularly check your credit score and bank statements for unusual activity.
- (U) Be suspicious if you receive an unexpected request whether it comes in the form of a telephone call, text, app message, or an email.
- (U) Telephone scams should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov.
- (U) For additional information, please visit FTC.com

(U) Current Trends

- (U) Similar scams involving police impersonation have been reported in different parts of the country.
- (U) Different variations of the scam were also reported including one where the fraudulent police officers requested donations.
- (U) Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust such as a government official, a known authority figure, a charity, or a company you do business with.
- (U) Scammers tend to create a sense of urgency manipulating the victims to act quickly.



(U) Please report any information pertaining to telephone scams to the VFC at VFC@vsp.virginia.gov or NVRIC at FCPD-NVRIC@fairfaxcounty.gov.