



Middletown Police Department

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Press Release: Scams seen in Middletown

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Three types of scams have surfaced recently in Middletown that we would like the citizens to be aware of these incidents.

1. A person posing as a CL&P representative called a local business telling them if they did not pay their electric bill the power would be shut off. The caller I.D. came up as CL&P but when the number was called back it came back to a Majic Jack telephone number. The person posing as the representative advised the business manager to pay with MoneyPak Cards. MoneyPak cards are purchased at a store and then you scratch off the number on the back to reveal the code to transfer the money to another account. CL&P has advised the investigating officers that they have received numerous complaints regarding this type of scam all over New England.

To avoid being a victim to this type of crime do not give out any personal information over the phone. If the person is requesting payment tell them you will call back to make a payment and then call back the telephone number listed on your bill not a telephone number that they give you.

2. A citizen was utilizing care.com come to find babysitting jobs and was contacted by a woman to babysit her child. The woman was given the citizen's name, address and picture. Soon after a check arrived in the mail made out to the citizen for a large sum of money. Bank personnel confirmed that the check was fraudulent. It is believed that the two incidents are related.

To avoid being a victim of this type of scam do not giving out your personal information over the internet. Checks received in the mail that appear

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suspicious should not be cashed without checking with a bank to make sure it is legitimate.

3. Another citizen developed a friendship with someone through Facebook. That person requested that they send money to their son in Nigeria. Shortly after that conversation a check arrived in the mail in the citizen's name. Again inquiring with the bank the check was found to be fraudulent.

Do not cash a check and send money to anyone that you do not know personally. (Personally does not mean friends on a social media site) If you receive a check in the mail confirm with your bank that the check is real before attempting to cash it.

The second two victims are not out any money because they did not cash the checks. Many of these types of scams originate from outside the U.S.A. and make it very difficult if not impossible to locate the accused parties. It is important to protect yourself by doing some follow up and research before agreeing to exchange any money or give out any personal information.

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