

Lake County Sheriff's Office

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Date: May 27, 2021



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MEDIA RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office Warns of Latest Scam

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is investigating several deceptive practice/impersonating a peace officer cases, where an offender is calling Lake County residents pretending to be a police officer. This is similar to a previous scam where the offender was pretending to be a sergeant with the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

At that time, the offender identified himself as 'Sergeant Bennett' and informed the caller they had an active warrant for their arrest. The scammer provided the victim with the victim's name and address, making the victim feel that the caller is a police officer.

These new cases are similar, where the caller is claiming to be Sergeant Michael Cope. The caller is 'spoofing' their caller identification number to make it appear they are actually calling from inside the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The scammer orders the victim to purchase gift cards and provide the gift card numbers/pins to the scammer in order to satisfy the warrant. The scammer has also asked victims for their social security numbers, banking information, and other sensitive information.

These types of scams are becoming more and more common, where scammers impersonate members of a local law-enforcement or government agency to prey on their victims.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office reminds the community that the government will never call and order you to pay money in the form of gift cards. If you receive an unsolicited call from anyone requesting money, you should be suspicious. If a person claims to be a government agency, call that government agency first to determine the validity of the call, before discussing anything.

If you have been the victim of a scam, contact your local law-enforcement.

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