

Clinton County Sheriff's Office

News Release

TO: AREA NEWS

REPORTED BY: Sgt W. Dominy

APPROVED BY: Major Robert Craig

SUBJECT OF RELEASE: Fraud/Impersonation

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Major Robert Craig

The sheriff's office has received and is actively investigating several complaints from the citizens of Clinton County which involves a potential phishing scheme.

On 03/19/2014 the sheriff's office received a call from a resident of Plattsburgh who stated that she received a phone call from an unknown male who claimed that she would be arrested if she hung up the phone. The male, who identified himself as "from the sheriff's office," stated that she failed to report for jury duty on the previous date, was now being held in contempt of court and that there was a warrant for her arrest. He continued by saying that if she hung up the phone he would send an officer over to arrest her. She said that the male stated she was due to appear for jury duty in "James Hall" in front of "Judge Kerry". The victim in this case became concerned and began trying to end the call. The male kept saying that "it was serious" and she should not hang up because if she did, she would be arrested. He asked for her cell phone number and attempted to confirm her address and date of birth. He also began trying to convince her to buy a "voucher" at a local retailer. It sounded like the individual was attempting to bait her into sending some sort of Moneygram from the retailer to pay the "fine" for failing to appear in Court.

During this instance the victim grew hesitant, disconnected the call and has suffered no losses. This is not the only instance the sheriff's office is investigating from the same date but the content of the conversation is the same in all cases.

The sheriff's office does not solicit for money over the phone and would not handle any complaint in this manner. Never give your personal information over the phone if you are not sure of whom you are speaking with. Always request the name of the officer and a number to call him/her back.

If you have received, or do receive a phone call such as the one described, obtain as much information as you can to include a name and phone number they can be reached at and turn it over to the authorities in your area.