

February 2017

Fraud Alert!

“You Owe the IRS Money” Scam

This past year, residents in our area were bombarded by, what is now known as, the “IRS Scam” telephone call. The method that these crooks used in scamming people out of their money proved to be one of the most successful scams of all time.

This type of fraud usually begins with a simple telephone call to your home number. The scammers use what is known as a “spoofing device” which alters what you see on your telephone’s caller ID. In this scam, the incoming calls would display as originating in Washington, DC; possibly even displaying the acronym “IRS”. These efforts at trickery are in the hopes that these calls “look legitimate” to those on the receiving end.

If you are not at home when these scammers call, oftentimes they will leave a nasty and threatening voice message.

If you have the misfortune of answering this type of call, you will most likely hear a professional sounding person who will inform you that you owe the IRS money and that if you do not pay you will face consequences that may include jail time.

Do not panic. Simply hang up the phone. Do not engage them in any conversation. We have learned that by doing so may result in the increase of these type of calls to your home. This is big business to these scammers and they will continue these calls thus creating a great deal of stress to whoever answers.

If you have received this type of telephone call and would like to discuss it, please call the office of Bucks County Consumer Protection at the number below.

We at Bucks County Consumer Protection advise you to file a complaint about this type of call with the FTC at

<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/GettingStarted#crnt> or by calling the Federal Trade Commission at (202) 326-2222.

February 2017

Monthly Fraud Alerts brought to you by:

Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Bucks County Coroner's Office

215-348-3852

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)

1-800-675-6900

A Woman's Place (AWP)

1-800-220-8116

Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection

215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

www.crimesagainstolderadultsbucks.org

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505