



HANOVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCSO Reminds Citizens to Protect Themselves against Phone Scams

Hanover, VA – Tax season is here, and the Hanover County Sheriff's Office would like to remind citizens to protect themselves against identity theft and scams. A phone scam is reoccurring in Hanover County where an unknown person(s) is contacting unsuspecting citizens claiming to be a representative with the Sheriff's Office or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This scam has become very prevalent recently and we want you to be informed. **The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will not call you about your taxes.**

You may receive a call from someone claiming to be with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office, the IRS or some other law enforcement agency who will claim that you owe back taxes. He or she may sound very convincing and seem to know a lot about you, and the caller ID may have been altered to appear as if the Hanover County Sheriff's Office or the IRS is calling. The caller will warn that if you or your lawyer don't return the call ASAP, you will be served with an arrest warrant. **Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the IRS will call you and demand immediate payment.** The IRS will not call about taxes you owe without first mailing you a bill. The IRS will not demand that you pay taxes without allowing you to question or appeal the amount you owe. The IRS will not require that you pay your taxes a certain way, such as with a prepaid debit card. The IRS will not ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone. The IRS will not threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for nonpayment. If you have any question about your tax status, you can contact the IRS at 800-829-1040.

Criminals will prey on unsuspecting citizens and attempt to legitimize their call by saying they are a deputy with the Sheriff's Office or even spoofing our telephone number. We want our citizens to know that the Hanover Sheriff's Office will never call them about their taxes. If you ever have any question as to the identity of a caller representing themselves as an employee of the Sheriff's Office, please contact us immediately, said Colonel David R. Hines.

If you are a victim of a scam or tax-related identity theft, contact the Sheriff's Office immediately by calling (804) 365-6140.

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"CONTINUING TO BE A PART OF, NOT APART FROM, THE COMMUNITY"