

State’s Attorney, James A. Dellmyer,
Raises Awareness on Fraud Surrounding COVID-19

As we continue to receive updates on COVID-19 and make necessary preparations we must also warn the public on fraud schemes that are taking place. Although we must work together through this crisis there are those who are taking advantage of people’s vulnerability and fear during this time to commit fraud and ruin lives. The Office of the State’s Attorney would like to help raise awareness by revealing just a few of the scams that are taking place:

Stimulus Checks

As many of you know, there have been rumors of the U.S. Government possibly giving out stimulus checks to stimulate the economy and to aid those who are out of work for the time being. Scammers are now using this information and calling citizens on their home or cell phones. They are claiming to be government employees and are asking for peoples’ Social Security numbers so that they may “send you your stimulus check.” Please remember to NEVER give out your Social Security number over the phone to anyone.



Door-to- Door Testing

Another popular scam that is going around is ‘door-to-door testing,’ scammers are going to people’s homes and claiming that they are administering free tests or testing kits for COVID-19. This is a ruse to either gain access to your home and commit a robbery or to receive your personal information. Please be aware that ALL door-to-door sales or solicitation is currently prohibited per Governor Hogan’s order restricting non-essential business.



Mobile Phone and Internet Scams

We live in an age of always evolving technology and scammers are using this as a platform to commit fraud in even more creative ways. One way of doing this is by creating Phishing emails pretending to be from the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Once the link is clicked on, it downloads malware or viruses on your mobile device or desktop and gives scammers and hackers access to your personal information. Another example would be scammers creating or manipulating mobile applications (Apps) that track the current spread of COVID-19. As the app downloads, malware does as well.



The above scams are simply a few examples of many that are circulating at this time throughout the U.S. We advise Cecil County citizens to use their better judgment should they encounter any of these fraud schemes and to report them immediately to any of the following:

Office of the State’s Attorney for Cecil County – 410-996-5335

Maryland State Police North East Barrack – 410-996-7800

Cecil County Sheriff’s Office – 410-996-5500

Any of the Municipal Police Agencies in Cecil County.

