



Greg
Champagne
Sheriff

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
Special Services Department
220 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070
Voice (985) 783-1355 • Fax (985) 783-1195

N e w s R e l e a s e

Corporal James Grimaldi
Public Information
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Sheriff Greg Champagne would like to remind citizens to be skeptical when having telephone conversations with various organizations, alleged service providers, or representatives claiming to be from government agencies. We have recently received another wave of reports from hard working citizens victimized by scam artist utilizing different variations of telephone solicitation.

If you receive a telephone call from someone claiming you owe a bill that you were unaware of, please verify the bill before making any payments over the telephone because once your funds are released to these unknown individuals, odds are you are being scammed and that money will be lost.

All service providers have a way to verify your bill over the internet. If you do not have access to the internet, look up a telephone number for the service provider and contact it, to ensure you are actually speaking with a representative of that organization. If you are contacted by the IRS over the telephone, instruct them to send you a bill to the address listed on your most recent tax paperwork. **DO NOT** give them your address or personal information. If they are contacting you, they should already have whatever information is necessary and you should not need to provide any further personal information.

Most importantly, no agency, service provider, or organization will ever call you and request funds to be paid by gift cards, money orders, or prepaid credit cards. This should be a red flag to you, indicating that this is a scam. Just save your money, end that telephone call, and enjoy the rest of your day. Don't become a victim.