



Charlestown Police Department

Criminal Investigation Division
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Anonymous Tip Line

FRAUD WARNING/REMINDER TO CITIZENS FROM CHPD



The Charlestown Police Department has recently received several calls from concerned citizens about suspicious telephone solicitations they have received. Most scammers, whether they contact you via the internet, mail or telephone; know exactly what to say to not only protect themselves from criminal prosecution, but also at the same time convince you to freely give them what they want.

The CHPD Criminal Investigations Division reminds citizens of the following facts and suggestions to keep in mind to not only help protect you and your family, but also your identity and assets.

- #1 Never provide anyone of whom you personally do not know, have not met, or confirmed the legitimacy of their business ANY personal information; especially a social security number, a date of birth, or an account number. Knowledge of personal information allows crooks to steal and use your identity.
- #2 Never arrange or agree to pay money in any way or form, to obtain a prize, sweepstake, lottery or winnings of any type. No legitimate contest requires pre-payment of any type for purposes of obtaining any prize, even for so-called administrative, mailing, or wire-transfer expenses. Be very skeptical of any contest of which you didn't enter in the first place, legal organizations or groups don't make you a lucky person out of chance or computer picks. "If it's too good to be true, it must be a scam!"
- #3 Never pay someone up front for work or supplies to be performed, unless a legal contract has been executed and reviewed carefully by an attorney. Never do business with a unknown contractor (someone of whom you do not personally know) without first checking for complaints with the Better Business Bureau, or checking references and seeing past work completed.

For more personal safety tips and crime prevention information, go to www.ctownpd.com and click on Crime Prevention. Personal Safety and Crime Prevention begins with you!