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Telephone scam mimics a call from police on caller ID

CON: Man pretends to be in law enforcement and demands cash.

By CASEY GROVE
Anchorage Daily News
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Anchorage police are warning against a new type of phone scam: "spoofers" who use gadgets, possibly smart phones, to make phone calls that mimic other phone numbers on caller identification systems.

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A suspicious call Friday involved a would-be swindler placing a call that appeared to come from the Anchorage Police Department, said police spokesman Lt. Dave Parker. The man had a heavy accent, demanded money and told the woman who answered that he was Police Chief Mark Mew, Parker said in an email.

"(She) told the caller she knew who Chief Mark Mew was, had met him and it wasn't the caller," Parker said.

The man hung up, and when the woman dialed the number listed on her caller ID, she was surprised to reach the police department, Parker said.

In another suspected scam Friday, the caller told a man he was a police officer who was about to arrest him for a \$700,000 electronic fraud case if he didn't come up with some money for the officer, Parker said.

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In both cases, the caller or callers had the potential victims' personal information, including Social Security numbers, police said. Neither of the people who received calls was taken in by the scammer, Parker said.

"APD would like to remind members of the public not to share personal information with anyone you have not initiated contact with for bona fide business purposes, or whose identity you are not sure of," Parker said.

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pgumby

I have been conversing with some time a person who is a bondsman, and I asked if their job was exciting and must have some interesting tales to tell. This person said no, their job was not exciting and it was irritating to begin with to deal with these sorts because they are unusually so stupid! Ha, ha, must be so, they are so stupid they usually always get caught! I think it's way smarter to earn a living with some good old fashioned honest labor. I would have respect for someone earning min. wage and working hard, than for someone working hard to steal from others!

2 days ago 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply



nDjinn

Spoofing is really easy. Obviously these callers are stupid. You can get a device that strips the caller ID and gives you the INI number and info associated with ethereal phone.

With that in mind; never give money over the phone to someone that dials you, no matter if it's a company that you use. Its such an easy con.

2 days ago 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply



ravenzwhisper

Thank you for making the public aware ADN.

2 days ago 8 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply



carrolldmc

Too many people do not exercise their fundamental human right to remain silent and/or hang up.

2 days ago 3 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply



Freddy

This sort of crime should be made a felony. It is bad enough dealing with the Police Department when they hve employed rapists and illegal immigrants.

3 days ago 7 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply



marya_97

It is a felony, as far as I am aware.

2 days ago in reply to Freddy 5 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply

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linz

it's funny 'cause it's true :D

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iamlowin907

That's a pretty low blow to the police you loser.

2 days ago in reply to Freddy 16 Likes Report Abuse Like Reply



Adam Brownfield

No, it's a correct observation you idiot.

1 day ago in reply to iamlowin907 1 Like Report Abuse Like Reply



SpudzPecker

All one needs to spoof CID is a SIP connection and an Asterisk box. And I'm betting with these folks, the SIP connection is stolen. Google/Wiki the terms for more info.

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