



Please be aware of fraudulent requests for information over the telephone, email, and internet. The Topsfield Police Department has received a serious increase of reports involving fraud. We want to do our best to assist the citizens of Topsfield with identifying these scammers before it is too late. The best thing to do if someone is requesting your information over the phone is to hang up and call the police. We will then assist you in determining if the call is legitimate. If someone is requesting your information through email or over the internet, pause and call us before moving forward.

Things to consider:

No legitimate agency or company will ever accept store bought cards such as, Google Play, Apple, Visa, etc. as any form of payment. If a requester asks you to purchase any form of credit card, it is a **SCAM**. **NEVER PURCHASE STORE BOUGHT CREDIT CARDS AND PROVIDE A REQUESTER THE NUMBERS!**

No legitimate agency will call you with disturbing news such as, "You will be put in jail" "We will garnish your wages", etc. If you do not pay the agency money right away. This is also a **SCAM! NEVER MAKE ANY PAYMENT IN FEAR, HANG UP AND CALL THE POLICE!**

Also, please be aware of potential scams in times of crisis, such as the Pandemic of **COVID-19**. Unfortunately, criminals will take advantage of these situations and use it for their personal gain. An example of this may be the request of donations to help victims of the Coronavirus or people who may be out of jobs due to the shutdown of many businesses. Also, please be aware of fraudulent websites relating to COVID-19 that may steal your information. Always refer to official government websites for information, such as Mass.gov.

The Topsfield Police Department is here to assist you, **DO NOT** let these criminals put you in fear. Hang up, pause, take a breath and call us right away. We are in this together!

Any questions regarding fraud and/or scam, please contact Detective Brendan Gahagan

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