

PHONE SCAM WARNING



The Gwinnett County Police Department is seeing a rise in scams where suspects posing as Gwinnett County Police officers — sometimes by name — contact victims by phone and claim the victim or a family member has an outstanding debt or warrant. Scammers typically threaten consequences if the victim does not pay money.

In addition to posing as the Gwinnett Police Department, suspects may claim they represent:

- A utility company that will terminate service immediately if payment isn't received
- A relative who has been arrested and needs money for bail or to remove a charge
- A law enforcement agency holding an outstanding warrant/ticket that must be paid immediately or the victim will be arrested
- The IRS claiming the victim owes back taxes and that an arrest warrant is imminent if the victim does not pay the taxes immediately
- A financial institution announcing that a pre-approved loan is available (or a lottery has been won), if the victim sends a small start-up fee
- An immigration authority threatening to deport a person if payment isn't received

To make the scam more believable, some swindlers will program their phones so that the phone number of the Gwinnett Police Department or another agency shows up on the victim's caller ID.

Scammers will demand payment via cryptocurrency, such as Bitcoin, or ask the victim to send cash via FedEx. They may also ask for payment on prepaid debit cards (such as Green Dot), gift cards, or wire transfer. These methods are appealing to criminals because the money is difficult, if not impossible, to track.

The Gwinnett County Police Department will never ask for payment of any sort over the phone.

Learn more safety information at [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://www.gwinnettsafety411.com)

Prevention tips

- Be suspicious of anyone calling and demanding immediate payment, especially by cash, via FedEx, or other couriers, including:
 - cryptocurrency (such as Bitcoin)
 - gift cards
 - prepaid debit card (such as Green Dot)
 - wire transfer
- Ask for the caller's identity and contact the agency independently. Do not call the number that appears on your caller ID
- Never disclose personal or financial information to unsolicited callers or by email
- Never wire money or provide bank account numbers or financial transaction card numbers (credit, debit, Green Dot, or any other prepaid card) to anyone you don't know

If you've received a phone call from a scammer, please call the Gwinnett County Police Department at 770.513.5700.

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