



NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Chief of Police

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Crime Alert – Phone Scams February 15, 2018

The Northfield Police Department and Rice County Sheriff's Office are warning citizens of phone scams recently reported in our area.

On today's date, the Rice County Sheriff's issued the following advisory:

SCAM PRETENDING TO BE RICE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Rice County Sheriff's Office has received scam complaints involving the phone number 507-512-1370. The suspect claims to be a Cpt Mike Jones. The suspect has set up a voicemail claiming to be the Rice County Sheriff's. The suspect is telling people they have a warrant for their arrest and they can post bail.

The Rice County Sheriff's Office does not have a Cpt Mike Jones. If you are contacted by this suspect or anyone else you think is suspicious, please call our Dispatch Center at 507-332-6001.

In addition, the Northfield Police Department has recently received several reports of different types of phone scams. In several reports, a caller claimed to be the victim's grandson or son, said they were in jail, and asked/demanded that the victim provide money for bail/bond. Other reports in the past have involved suspects claiming to be the FBI or IRS and demanding payment to stop official action against the victim.

We ask members of the community to consider the following advice to avoid being a victim:

- If it doesn't make sense, or sounds too good to be true, it is almost guaranteed to be a scam. If in doubt, call the Police.
- Do not give out private info via the phone, email, or websites to people/entities you do not know.
- The IRS, FBI, local law enforcement, and other groups do not normally use email or phone calls to notify you of warrants, fraudulent activity, or to threaten legal action or arrest. Do not fall victim to these types of threats or notifications.
- If a caller demands that you purchase and provide them a money order, store gift cards, VISA gift cards, or similar forms payment, you should assume it is a scam.
- Go to ftc.gov/idtheft for resources, information, and reporting options.

If you think someone has tried to scam you of information or money, call the Non-Emergency line at 507-645-4475.