

Scammers are impersonating the state Department of Revenue and sheriff's offices, officials shared in separate releases.

"No law enforcement, government agency or court will ask you to pay an outstanding fee via gift cards or cryptocurrency."

Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office release

Attorney General Dave Sunday said an emerging scam call uses a spoofed phone number and alleges to be the "sheriffs office."

Most times, the scammer tells the recipient about an alleged unpaid traffic ticket or legal matter, and says a sheriff's deputy is on the way with a warrant for arrest, and encourages the recipient not to hang up the phone.

"The scammer offers the resident a 'lifeline' to make an immediate payment via gift cards, wire transfer or utilizing a cryptocurrency ATM," the release says.

Residents who receive such a call should ask the caller to identify themselves with their badge number, the law enforcement agency they work for, and a telephone number for their office, the release says.

The recipient should ask them to hang up and call back. If the caller refuses, it is a scam, the release says.

Residents who have sent money and believe they have been scammed should contact their bank and the third-party money transmitter used to try to cancel the payment.