



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 3/18/15

Complaint Number: 15-112642

Type of Incident: Fraud/Impersonation of Law Enforcement

Reporting Officer: Detective Bureau

Supervisor Approval: Lt. Al Roetman

On 3/18/2015, Kent County Sheriff Department was called to a home in 9800 block of East Paris Ave Se in Gaines Township on a fraud report. The victim had been contacted on the phone by a female stating she was attempting to collect a debt from the victim. The victim was told that if she failed to pay immediately, a warrant would be issued for her arrest.

A short time later, a male arrived at the victim's residence and identified himself as being a detective with the Kent County Sheriff Department. The subject directed the victim to pay by purchasing a prepaid credit card with an amount of money given. The victim complied with fear of arrest.

The victim went to local retail store and purchased the card and returned home. The male subject was still at the residence waiting. The victim provided the subject with the numbers on the back of the card and the male left.

The victim did not request police identification and took the suspect at his word that he was a detective.

The suspect identified himself by the first name of Mark and was wearing a black business suit. He had greying sideburns and a southern accent and last seen driving a black Dodge Charger style vehicle with no markings. No police badge or firearm was seen.

This is a bold approach taken by the suspect. Again utilizing a law enforcement agency name in attempt(s) to fraudulently obtain money from unsuspecting victims.

The Kent County Sheriff Department or any other local law enforcement agency does not conduct business in this manner. Law Enforcement would not ask you to obtain a pre-paid credit card from a local retailer to pay fines/costs.

If you are contacted by someone identifying themselves as Law Enforcement, you are encouraged to ask for police identification/credentials.

If questions about the Kent County Sheriff Department or verify a call received please contact Dispatch at 616-632-6100 extension 1.