



KRONENWETTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Community Focused, People First"

Established 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

PUBLISHER CLEARING HOUSE SCAMS

Due to what appears to be a current trend throughout Wisconsin we wanted to make our citizenry aware of what appears to be a large number of various scams using the "Publisher's Clearing House" theme as a way to bilk residents out of large amounts of money. Cases have been developed in Trempealeau, Oneida and Portage Counties along with at least one here in Kronenwetter.

A common thread seems to be that of a caller telling the Victim that they are from Publisher's Clearing House and are some form of "Delivery Agent" and are attempting to arrange the delivery of a new vehicle. In this case it was supposedly that of a 2012 Mercedes Benz automobile that our Victim had won. The caller will then advise that there are certain fees that need to be paid before the vehicle can be shipped. There was a time during the contact that the caller (Delivery Agent) put our Victim in contact with an alleged Attorney who vouched for the legitimacy of the deal.

In the Village case the Victim stated they only had a small amount of the required fees needed to be sent. They were advised that someone would send them a check to cover those charges and they should send the money they have. The Victim went ahead and sent out the funds she had access to via Western Union to Knoxville, Tennessee. In a few days of the initial contact the Victim did in fact receive a check drawn on a personal account and was out of the State of Oregon. After that the Victim depositing the check in their bank and sent the additional funds (\$7,000) via Western Union and Money Gram to Knoxville and only to discover the check the Victim received earlier was no good and returned for insufficient funds thereby leaving our Victim holding a worthless check and obligated to pay .

Contact was made with the check writer in Oregon only to find out they too were elderly and had been advised to send the check to Wisconsin to be "held" by our Victim to prove "good faith" that fees would be paid later for the vehicle they had won and would be receiving.

A check of the phone number listed on the Victim's caller ID showed it come back to a Jamaican exchange and believed to be an Offshore Scam. It would be highly recommended that if anyone receives a check from someone they do not know contact authorities immediately. If a check is deposited ask the financial

institution to advised you when the check clears all banks before sending any funds forward. Normally if you win something you should not have to pay to receive the prize.