



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Scam Alert

Location of Incident: Yuma County

The Yuma County Sheriff's Office has received numerous calls in reference to a scam occurring via Facebook Messenger. The victims are receiving Facebook Messenger messages from a suspect using the name "Leon" and Sheriff Wilmot's profile picture. The suspect is claiming that they were delivered \$150,000 to their doorstep by FEDEX. They go on to tell you that your name is on the "lucky winner list" of those entitled to the "cash bonus". They will then provide you with a "text number" of (254) 735-4327 to contact an agent about the winning money.

The YCSO would like to remind the community that YCSO will never contact you via phone, messenger or text to offer or request money from you.

Below is a list of scams that have been reported in Yuma County in the past.

Jury duty scam: This time the call is supposedly from someone at the courthouse who claims you failed to report for jury duty and a warrant has been issued for your arrest. You're then offered a choice to either pay for the warrant or have an officer sent over to arrest you. The fraudsters will typically demand that the money be paid by money transfer or by loading a prepaid card. They have been known to use actual names of local Officers and Judges in the scam to make it seem legitimate. Scammers have gone as far as using devices that allow them to display local law enforcement phone numbers on your caller ID's.

Lottery scam: While the other scams prey on fear and concern, this one aims to convince you that you've won money in foreign lottery. Never mind that you can't recall ever entering one. The call will come from someone who sounds official. They'll ask for a payment up-front for supposed taxes and fees so you can collect your winnings.

Utility scam: This is another fear-based scam that involves convincing you that the utility company is about to cut off service due to unpaid bills. The scammers will naturally want money sent to them by money transfer or a prepaid card.

If you believe you have been a victim, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

Information Released By: Alfonso Zavala, Public Information Officer