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Scam Artists Gleaning Guam Phone Numbers Off the Internet Residents Advised to Ignore Unknown International Phone Numbers



Hagatna, Guam- Scam artists are attempting to strike on Guam again, this time using gleaned phone listings- phone listings that are bought or stolen off the internet- to call residents at their homes at all hours of the day and night.

A local resident contacted the Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Claims Unit last week stating that a male individual would constantly call her residence and offer her a large sum of money via Western Union wire transfer to help care for refugees of Libya "who are coming to Guam live and get educated. The phone number that registered on the consumer's caller I.D. is: 233-249-567-7272.

"The OAG is unaware of refugees from Libya coming to Guam to live and get an education; there have been no news reports to indicate this is true," said Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Claims Unit Advocate.

"This scam is not new to our island; we have all either received or heard about emails very similar in nature that have come out of Africa. The only difference is they have been able to obtain phone numbers," she continued.

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“Scam artists will call your home at all hours of the day and night; lower the ring volume so as to not disturb the activities of you and your family. If possible, block these numbers from calling.”

The OAG advises residents to ignore phone calls of this nature, especially if it is a long distance number you do not recognize.

“The important thing to remember is that if someone calls and you do not know them, hang up. By entertaining them, you are opening yourself up to a scam artist who is trained to keep the consumer on the line so they can scam you,” said Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas.

“If you immediately hang up, they will move on and not waste their time and effort on you. They are trying to steal your hard-earned money or your identity so they can they can steal your money and get personal information to scam someone else with,” he continued.

If you suspect a possible scam, or have been contacted by individuals from Ghana, Africa who offers you large sums of money, please report it to:
Bernie Alvarez, Consumer Advocate for the Office of the Attorney General at 475-3324 ext. 3340 or to email the information to: balvarez@guamag.org.

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