



MAYOR  
John A. Kinnaird

# Thurmont Police Department

800 East Main Street  
Thurmont, Maryland 21788  
Phone: 301-271-0905  
Fax: 301-271-9146



CHIEF  
Gregory L. Eyler

December 17, 2020

## Scam Alerts:

With the holidays approaching, the Thurmont Police Department has taken an increased number of scam and fraud reports. Below are some of the common frauds and scams that have been seen in our area, but not limited to these examples:

1. You will never be told by a legitimate business that you have to pay with ANY type of gift cards.
2. You must stay on your cell phone while giving money or collecting money and you're not allowed to tell anyone what you are doing.
3. Paying money up front for work they tell you needs done to your home/business.
4. Sending money via ANY outside agency such as Walmart, tele faxes, wire currency, phone cash transfer applications, etc.
5. Your family member is in jail and you need to bail them out by anything other than coming down to the jail.
6. Sending inappropriate pictures over the internet and told if you don't send money they will put it on the internet, Facebook etc.
7. Publisher Clearing House... You Won, just send money for taxes. Any prize of anything that needs money before you get the prizes is fake. Having to send money by any means other than going to a legitimate business is fraudulent.
8. Your Amazon account has been hacked. Charges have been placed. Give us your information so we can get it cleared up. Make sure to look at your accounts through legitimate websites, not what the caller gives you, to see if there is an issue.
9. This is Potomac Edison, your electric is going to be cut off unless you pay now!
10. You met someone new online, start a relationship online and after a month or more, he/she needs money for whatever, and promises to pay you back with interest because they love you.
11. No law enforcement or other government agency in the United States, including the IRS, will ever call you on the phone and threaten you with arrest if you do not immediately send them money, provide them with the number of a gift card, or transfer money into an account.
12. Criminals posing as IRS agents may threaten people with arrest, deportation, license revocation, or Social Security number cancellation if they don't make an immediate payment. The IRS never asks for credit card numbers or banking information over the phone. The IRS will also never initiate contact by email, text message, or social media.

THEY will prey on your feelings, and do not care what it costs you. These people are criminals. Don't let them win your hard earned money. If you ever think something is suspicious, contact the Thurmont Police Department or stop in to have officers check it BEFORE you send any money. Please contact us with any questions. Most of all do not send them money or provide any account numbers. Do not go to the store and purchase money cards or gift cards as they may have instructed and send them money.

Sincerely,  
Chief Gregory L. Eyler  
Thurmont Police Department