

CLERY Timely Warning 10-15

December 8, 2015

Telephone Scam

The University of Missouri–St. Louis Police Department would like you to be aware of a telephone scam focusing on University students. The caller identifies himself as a federal law enforcement officer or an agent of the Internal Revenue Service. The caller then tells the person they have called that they are behind in their “educational taxes” or owe money for federal student loans and will be arrested by campus police unless they pay the fee immediately.

These calls are not originating from a legitimate government or law enforcement agency. They are a scam designed to solicit banking information. They will use this information to access your bank account. If you have provided this person your banking or SSN information, contact the UMSL Police Department and your bank as soon as possible. You may also go to www.ftc.gov/complaint to register a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

If you receive a call of this nature do not provide any information and hang up immediately. Don't hesitate to contact the UMSL Police Department at 314-516-5155 with questions or concerns about any type of scam or fraud.

Tips to avoid scams

- Be skeptical of any unsolicited phone calls, e-mails or personal visits from strangers about investments.
- Don't do business with a faceless person over the phone or internet.
- Work with companies that are known or recommended by someone you trust.
- Check out the company with the Securities Division of the Secretary of State's Office, 800-721-7996. All securities brokers and securities sold in Missouri (unless exempted by statute) must be registered.
- Ask the salesperson to send literature about the firm. Do not be swayed by glossy brochures some con artists produce. Also, ask for a written proposal describing conditions of the contract and a form outlining the investment risks.
- Get a second opinion on the purchase, opportunity or investment from your lawyer, Stockbroker, accountant or other qualified expert.

(This information is distributed in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998. To learn more about Jeanne Clery, please visit: <http://www.securityoncampus.org/>. For more personal safety tips please visit the UMSL Police website at: <http://safety.umsf.edu/police/safety/safety-tips.html>)

