

JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2400
dao@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Consumer Affairs Office (831) 454-2050

Website
<http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

Telephone Scams Targeting Santa Cruz County Seniors

Computer “Repair” Scam

Computer hackers are calling residents posing as “Microsoft” employees claiming that they can see that a virus is infecting your computer or that your computer is riddled with malware. The caller then tries to gain your trust by confusing you with a barrage of technical terms. The scammer tells the user to visit a website which allows him to access the computer remotely and the computer then becomes inaccessible.

Many residents have received the calls and many have fallen for the scam; the losses have ranged from \$1,000 to \$15,000. The scammer asks for pre paid Green Dot Money Pak cards to be purchased and then asks for the pin number. Victims are not able to retrieve the lost money in this scam. If you get this call, hang up the phone.

The IRS Is Not Calling To Collect Back Taxes

Telephone scammers posing as Internal Revenue Service agents continue to call Santa Cruz County residents asking for tax payments over the phone. The callers claim that you will be arrested for delinquent taxes or for overdue payments. The callers use fake names and often provide phony IRS badge numbers in order to sound legitimate. They request pre paid cash cards or wire transfers through Western Union or Money Gram.

The IRS does not contact taxpayers to threaten arrest or collect overdue taxes. This is always a scam. Do not engage in a conversation with fake IRS agents.

Suspects Threaten Residents With Arrest Over Jury Duty

A Santa Cruz County government worker reported getting multiple calls from a crook claiming to be Sergeant Joseph Kelly from the Santa Cruz Sheriff’s office. The caller claimed that the woman had two warrants for failure to appear for jury duty and that the warrant was signed by Santa Cruz Judge A_____. The suspect told her that she must post multiple bonds for \$500, or she would be arrested. The victim purchased 6 Money Pak cards at his request, all totaling \$3,000 before realizing that she had been scammed.

The Sheriff’s office will never call residents and threaten arrest over a missed jury duty. No legitimate company will ever direct you to pay anything with a Pre Paid Cash card such as Green Dot Money Pak.