

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Don't be a Victim of a Work-at-Home Online Scam

Glendale, Ariz. – The Glendale Police Department would like to warn citizens about a work-at-home online scam that is happening all across the nation. The FBI recently posted a bulletin to college students, but we are finding there are more than just college students being victimized. Scammers are advertising phony jobs through email, social media, or online advertisements.

How the scam works:

- Scammers post online job advertisements soliciting people for administrative positions.
- The victim receives counterfeit checks in the mail or via e-mail and is instructed to deposit the checks into their personal checking account.
- The scammer then directs the victim to withdraw the funds from their checking account and send a portion, via wire transfer, to another individual. Often, the transfer of funds is to a "vendor", purportedly for equipment, materials, or software necessary for the job.
- Subsequently, the checks are confirmed to be fraudulent by the bank.

Consequences of participating in this scam:

- The victim's bank account may be closed due to fraudulent activity and a report could be filed by the bank with a credit bureau or law enforcement agency.
- The victim is responsible for reimbursing the bank the amount of the counterfeit checks.
- The scamming incident could adversely affect the victim's credit record.
- The scammers often obtain personal information from the victim while posing as their employer, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft.
- Scammers seeking to acquire funds through fraudulent methods could potentially utilize the money to fund illicit criminal or terrorist activity.

The Glendale Police Department urges everyone to be cautious of job opportunities that require you to deposit initial checks into your account, and then sending part of the deposit to another account. Make sure you research your employment opportunities. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you ever receive a suspicious email or message, please notify FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.IC3.gov and call the Glendale Police Department.

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**Spanish translation available*

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is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve."*

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a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*