



**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

**SHERIFF**  
**MIKE PRENDERGAST**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SCAM ALERT: Don't answer unrecognized numbers**

First let us start off by saying that if you receive a phone call on your home landline phone or your cell phone that you do not recognize - **DO NOT ANSWER!!!**

The first scam we want to give you a heads up on happened to one of our own employees here at CCSO on her work cell phone. It was an automated call telling her that her warranty was about to expire on her vehicle. Well - she knew this was a scam right away, but wanted to see if she could get to a real person. After many prompts, we finally spoke to a "representative" of the warranty company. Right away, she was asked if she could give her name, birthdate, and the make, model and year of her vehicle. The employee asked how this so-called company got her name. The "representative" said from her vehicle warranty papers. After a few more probing questions, the employee told the "representative" that she worked for law enforcement and that the call was being recorded. The so-called representative immediately hung up.

Our second scam comes to us from a local citizen who warned us of a call she received from Wells Fargo. By the way, she doesn't have an account with Wells Fargo, but decided to play along. They asked for all of her personal information and when she was prompted to push in her info, she put all zeros. It eventually got her to a real person, a "representative" they call themselves, and they immediately hung up when she started to ask them probing questions. Thankfully, she recognized this was a scam right away.

If you are ever in doubt, please hang up or ask them for their number so you can call them back to verify if they are a legitimate business or not. Do not fall for these scams that are becoming all too common. Be a SMART consumer and keep your personal information PRIVATE!