



Sheriff Walter L. Davis III

Delaware County Sheriff's Office  
Community Relations

## Sheriff Alert

2011-12-18  
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Information disseminated is intended to inform citizens of criminal and suspicious activity in and around residential and business areas that affect our community. The information provided is intended to provide a proactive approach to our law enforcement services and enhance the communication between the community and law enforcement officials that serve and protect the citizens of Delaware County. Any questions or concerns, or any information that needs to be disseminated immediately contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office Community Relations at 740-833-2886.

## FRAUDULENT ACTIVITY

The Delaware County Sheriff wants to make sure county residents don't fall victim to the latest fraudulent check scam.

A Delaware County resident contacted the Sheriff's Office Friday, December 16 to report a suspicious check received in the mail. The resident informed dispatchers that the check was from USA Mega Sweepstakes. This skeptical resident contacted the bank listed on the check to validate its routing number. The bank confirmed the residents' suspicions; the routing number was two characters shy of being valid. Two separate account numbers were also listed on the check. A phone number listed on an accompanying letter as a California contact, actually returned to British Columbia.

This resident did the right thing. If you receive a check or other correspondence in the mail that appears suspicious, contact our office. This resident verified with the bank that the check was fraudulent, and then took it a step further and contacted law enforcement to report the activity. We want to warn others in the county that this type of activity continues to occur and we all need to be aware.

Sheriff Davis offers the following tips to recognize and avoid fake check scams.

### Tips to recognize and avoid fake check scams:

- **Look at the check carefully:** Most legitimate checks have at least one perforated or rough edge. If there isn't a rough edge, it could have easily been printed from a personal computer
- **Research the company:** If you receive a check for a sweepstakes you never entered or heard it, chances are it's probably a scam
- **Avoid wire transfers:** According to the National Consumer League, in almost all of the cases in which consumers said they sent money to scammers, they were advised to use a wire service
- **Don't deposit the check:** It could take weeks before the bank discovers the check is a fake, and by then it's often too late

*An office committed to protecting our homes, our schools and our community while providing the highest levels of integrity, accountability and professionalism to the people we serve.*