

CONTACT Us:

9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

ACSO Important Phone Numbers

ACSO Main Administration	352.367.4000
Crime Prevention Unit	352.374.1800
Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty	352.372.7867
Dept. of the Jail	352.491.4444
Evidence Section	352.367-4076
Human Resources	352.367.4040
Narcotics Tip Line	352.374.1849
Patrol	352.367.4101
Public Information Office	352.367.4050
Property Unit	352.367.4078
Records Bureau	352.367.4006
Victim Advocate Unit	352.367.4199



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Sheriff Emery A. Gainey

P.O. Box 5489, Gainesville, FL 32627
2621 SE Hawthorne Road, Gainesville, FL 32641
<https://www.acso.us>



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None of the law enforcement agencies in Alachua County will call you and threaten to arrest you if you do not pay a fine with a prepaid card. **This is a scam.**

GRU and Clay Electric will not call you and threaten to turn off your electricity or water unless you pay a fee with a prepaid card. **This is a scam.**

The Clerk of the Court will not call you and threaten to arrest you for missing jury duty unless you pay a fine with a prepaid card. **This is a scam.**

The IRS will not call you and threaten to arrest you unless you pay for back taxes with a prepaid card. In fact, the IRS will not call you, e-mail you, or contact you on social media. The IRS will communicate any official business with you via the United States Postal Service.

Remember, no legitimate governmental agency will call you or tell you to pay any type of fine by phone or via a prepaid Visa card. If you have received a phone call or e-mail asking you to provide personal information and/or send payment to avoid arrest or other penalty, **IT IS A SCAM!**

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, please notify local law enforcement at (352) 955-1818. You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>.

ACSO 2023

ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



SCAMS AND FRAUDS

POPULAR SCAMS

Thieves use many different tactics to separate unwary citizens from their money. Some of the major ploys that you may have heard of are:

- ⇒ Phishing
- ⇒ Identity Theft
- ⇒ Credit Card Skimming
- ⇒ Lottery Scams
- ⇒ Check Fraud
- ⇒ “Grandparent” Bail
- ⇒ Utility Cutoff
- ⇒ Government/Official Contact

PHISHING

Phishing is the practice of sending e-mails or text messages purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers. A phishing e-mail may look like it is from your bank, credit union, credit card company, payment app, or an online store. They may even use the real company’s logo. They will often say that your account is locked or that you must confirm some personal information and will include a link for you to click on to complete the request. Don’t fall for it. If you have any questions about any of your accounts, contact the company through normal channels. For a guide on how to spot phishing emails, visit the Federal Trade Commission at <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is when someone else uses your personal or financial information without your consent. Once they have your personal information, they can use it to charge purchases to your credit cards or obtain new credit accounts in your name, obtain utility accounts in your name, steal your tax refund, use your health insurance to get medical care or even pretend to be you if they are arrested.



Protect yourself by keeping your personal information secure. Use strong, original passwords with each online account. Shred documents prior to throwing them away. Keep all of your documents in a safe place. Never leave mail in your mailbox. Never give your information to someone who calls, e-mails, or texts you.

CREDIT CARD SKIMMERS

A credit card skimmer is a device placed on a credit terminal that steals your card data in order to use it for fraudulent purposes. Thieves may use the card data to make purchases over the phone or on the internet, steal your identity, or even create fraudulent cards.

Skimmer in an Alachua County Gas pump.



In Alachua County, skimmers on gas pumps are a common problem. They are often difficult to spot, but there are some things you can do to combat skimmers, like:

- ⇒ Run your debit card as a credit card, without using the pin.
- ⇒ Look for broken security seals.

- ⇒ Look for anything unusual in the card reader.
- ⇒ Use Apple Pay, Samsung Pay, or Android Pay, all of which protect your information.
- ⇒ Avoid the skimmer threat altogether by paying inside.

LOTTERY SCAMS

It is against federal law for U.S. citizens to play a foreign lottery so if you get a message via text, email, or social media telling you that you’ve won a foreign lottery - it is ALWAYS a scam.

Remember, if you didn’t play, you didn’t win.

CHECK FRAUD

Sometimes scammers on Craigslist or other service-type websites will send you a big check and ask you to send some of the money back to them as a processing fee, usually in the form of a prepaid credit card. Don’t fall for it. In the weeks it can take for a bank to determine that the check is a fake, the scammers have already taken your money and disappeared. You are then on the hook to your bank for any monies spent.

BAIL MONEY

This scam targets older adults. The scammers will call and say that a “grandchild” has been arrested and the victim must send money immediately, usually via a prepaid card, to post bail for the “grandchild.” Combat this scheme by hanging up and then calling your grandchildren and/or other family members. You will likely find that your grandchild is perfectly fine and in no danger of arrest.

PREPAID CARD SCAMS

These are the scams where a caller contacts a victim over the phone claiming to be from a utility company, property landlord, clerk’s office, or even law enforcement and threatens utility cut off, eviction, or arrest if a fine or fee is not immediately paid via a prepaid credit card.