

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**Community Notification—May 30, 2019**

**ALERT:**  
Critical / Major Incident

**ADVISORY:**  
Important Incident

**BULLETIN:**  
General Information

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Public Safety would like to notify the University of St. Thomas community about recent suspicious activity.

Three St. Thomas students reported receiving phone calls from caller ID spoofed numbers falsifying the origin of the call from the University of St. Thomas Public Safety Department or “Your schools Public Safety”.

The caller reportedly told students they committed a crime and asked for money orders up to the amount of \$30,000. The caller said the money is to stop the unspecified issuance of an arrest warrant and media notification.

The caller was described as a male, 20 to 30 years of age, possibly with a Spanish accent, and appeared to be the same person in each incident. There was loud background noise including the sound of radios or other callers.

Public Safety does not make outgoing phone calls from (651) 962-5555, the emergency line number, and will not ask for any kind of money or money orders.

***The University of St. Thomas believes that descriptors alone are not a valid reason to profile or cast suspicion on any individual. They are included here because they may reasonably assist in identifying the perpetrator of this incident.***

**Report crime confidentially or anonymously:  
by e-mailing [PSTIPS@stthomas.edu](mailto:PSTIPS@stthomas.edu),  
or calling 651-962-TIPS.**

Crime prevention tips:

1. **Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.
2. **Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like “review,” “complaint” or “scam.” Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like “IRS call.” You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.
3. **Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.
4. **Don't pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might even say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will probably take the money and disappear.
5. **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is **risky** because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards (like MoneyPak or Reloadit) and gift cards (like iTunes or Google Play). Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
6. **Talk to someone.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.
7. **Don't deposit a check and wire money back.** By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.

***This Document is not considered a Timely Warning Notification under campus crime reporting Requirements.***

Follow Public Safety on Twitter [twitter.com/PublicSafetyUST](https://twitter.com/PublicSafetyUST)  
If you have information regarding crimes on campus you are urged to contact  
Public Safety at (651) 962-5100 and the police (612) 348-2345

**Removal Date: 06/13/2019**