



# ***Gulf County Sheriff's Office***

## ***Sheriff Mike Harrison***

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PRESS RELEASE  
June 8, 2020

### **SCAM ALERT**

Today, the Gulf County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) received a report of a scam that involved someone impersonating a deputy claiming they were investigating a case of counterfeit bills.

A local business was the target and received the call from the scammer. The victim was led to believe they were speaking with a lieutenant from the GCSO and that he was conducting an investigation into a case where counterfeit bills were distributed from the business. A bogus agency case number was provided by the scammer who instructed the victim to take money from the business' cash register and drive to a local pharmacy in Port Saint Joe to purchase two Green Dot Visa cards. Once the cards were purchased, the victim was instructed to provide the card information over the phone and afterward to destroy the cards. The victim was scammed for \$900.

"The Gulf County Sheriff's Office, or any law enforcement agency for that matter, would never contact someone over the phone and instruct them to send money. We do not contact individuals over the phone and request they send funds or threaten them to send funds, in lieu of arrest." said Sheriff Mike Harrison.

Sending funds through a wire transfer, a purchased gift card or prepaid card, or even transferring funds through a money transfer app is a red flag. Citizens can educate themselves about phone scams by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's website at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0208-phone-scams>. Anyone who has received a similar call is asked to contact the Gulf County Sheriff's Office.

Prepared by: Capt. Chris Buchanan  
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