



## Investigations Division

### Quarterly Tip

#### **Gift Card Scams**

A gift card scam is an incident where someone calls you and requests payment in the form of gift cards. A victim of a scam will be directed to go to a store, purchase a gift card, and then are instructed to provide the gift card number and pin code to the scammer.

Common gift card scams include calls from someone who:

- Claims to be an agent of the government (IRS, Social Security, Law Enforcement) claiming that there is an outstanding debt or a warrant for your arrest
- Claims to be from tech support or utility company saying that there is a problem with your computer, equipment, or service
- Claims you have won a prize or lottery but asks for a payment via gift card to redeem your prize
- Claims that they are a friend of a family member who is in an emergency and needs money

If you believe you are a victim of a gift card scam, do the following:

- File a report with your local police department
- File a fraud report with the Federal Trade Commission by going to the website: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://ReportFraud.ftc.gov)
- File a report with the Illinois States Attorney General by going to the website: [Illinois Attorney General Home Page](http://IllinoisAttorneyGeneralHomePage)

Government agencies will not call, e-mail, or text you and ask for money!