

*The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts*  
*County Of Hampden*



NICHOLAS COCCHI  
SHERIFF

OFFICE OF THE  
SHERIFF



627 Randall Road  
Ludlow, Massachusetts  
01056-1085  
413-547-8000

## **Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi warns public of new scam targeting travelers**

LUDLOW, MA – November 19, 2024 – Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi is warning the public of a new phone scam targeting travelers. In addition to the usual scams that continue to disrupt citizens' daily lives, a family member of a Sheriff's Office deputy who was traveling abroad reported a new variation. The scammer, posing as a deputy, asked her to verify her signature by offering it up at a nearby electronic terminal. That could prove just as dangerous as giving up cash.

"All of these scams are aimed at using a fear of being on the wrong side of the law to coerce people to give up their hard-earned money. And we only expect these scams to increase as the holidays approach," Sheriff Cocchi said. "Law enforcement will never call you to settle a warrant or to solicit money for any reason. If you get one of these calls, hang up."

There also have been reports of a new round of a previously used scam in which Western Massachusetts residents are contacted via phone by someone claiming to be a Sheriff's Office deputy. In these phone calls reported over the past few days, the scammers represented themselves as a Hampden County Sheriff's Office deputy who claimed the person answering owed money for missing grand jury duty.

The Sheriff's Office will NEVER conduct such business via telephone or electronic means. If it was a serious matter as the scammers claim, a uniformed deputy would be knocking at your door. Sheriff Cocchi warns that even if the phone number on the caller ID appears to be from a local law enforcement agency, it is not legitimate and likely generated via a spoofing service on the Internet. Legitimate government and law enforcement agencies will NEVER do business on the phone or by digital means.

Sheriff Cocchi is asking members of the public who receive such messages to hang up and report it to their local police department. And if you're reading this, please share the message with loved ones.