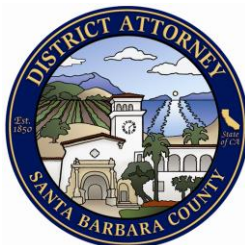


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 02-466

RELEASE NUMBER

February 20, 2018

RELEASE DATE

Joyce E. Dudley

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney

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******* PRESS RELEASE *******

SCAM WARNING: Circulation of Scam Letter Purporting to be from Department of Justice and District Attorney Joyce Scott Dudley or J. Scott Dudley

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley is warning the public about a scam letter circulating in our community. It is signed with the name J. Scott Dudley. Underneath the signature block are the words, "Signed: Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce Scott Dudley".

The scam begins with a telephone call from someone purporting to be from Publisher's Clearing House stating that the recipient has won a prize. In order to claim the prize, the targeted victim must send a check for \$350. This telephone call is followed by another call from someone claiming to be from the Capital One Fraud Department, who is supposedly investigating fraudulent activity on the victim's Chase account.

This call is followed by the fake letter. The letter purports to be from the Department of Justice and has an official-looking but fake seal next to the heading, "Department of Justice". The topic of the letter is "Cyber Crime in California". The letter begins by alerting the recipient about an unusual transaction on their bank account. The letter goes on to state that the FBI is requesting the recipient's "full cooperation and Strictest Confidence" while the investigation is continuing. The recipient is promised compensation of \$30,000 for their support. This multi-layered scam is undoubtedly designed to gain the victim's trust, so that under the auspices of the "FBI" the victim will part with some money. Be advised that this entire sequence is a scam. The letter was not sent by the Department of Justice, nor was it signed by Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley.

Any person receiving this letter should report it immediately to the FBI at www.ic3.gov.
