



SOUTHERN SHORES POLICE DEPARTMENT
5375 N VIRGINIA DARE TRL
SOUTHERN SHORES, NC 27949
PHONE - 252-261-3331
FAX - 252-261-4851

Over the past six months, Southern Shores Police have taken several reports of fraud. These cases have involved credit card fraud, “Green dot” scams, Western Union or counterfeit check scams and “reshipping” frauds. In most cases, scammers target the elderly and gain compliance by playing on the victim’s emotions.

In order to increase awareness and reduce victimization due to fraud cases, Southern Shores Police would like to disperse information to the public to reduce fraudulent activity. Below is a list of common frauds and what to do if you become a victim of fraud:

Credit card fraud – Scammer’s can obtain credit card information in many ways; computer viruses, card skimmers etc. In most cases the victim will be unaware their credit card information has been obtained and used fraudulently. To reduce the risk of credit card fraud, keep track of transactions by keeping a close watch on credit card accounts, use secure websites and report any fraudulent activity as soon as possible. If fraudulent activity is observed contact the credit card company or bank issuing the credit card to notify them of fraudulent activity and file a report with the local police department. Victims may also contact one of the credit bureaus to flag their accounts. Further instructions on what to do if one becomes a victim of credit card fraud/identity theft can be found on the North Carolina Department of Justice website by following this link: [ID Theft Victims](#).

“Green dot” scams have been our most reported type of scam. “Green dot” scams usually focus on “Money Pak” cards or “Money Gram” transactions which are loadable cash cards or wire transfers up to \$500. “Green dot” cards are not tied to any permanent bank account or credit card as transactions can be transferred to cash very quickly. In cases of “Green dot” scams, the scammer will contact a victim and tell them they have won a sweepstakes, a loved one is in jail or may even pose as a Federal Agent and say they need to collect past due taxes. In all cases the scammer will play on the victim’s emotions and will request swift action. The scammer will advise the victim to obtain a “Green dot” or other loadable cash cards from CVS, Rite Aid, Wal-Mart or other retailer that sells the loadable cash cards. The scammer then asks the victim to provide the fourteen to sixteen digit numbers to them over the telephone or through email in order to obtain the prize or get their loved one out of jail. In some cases the scammer may say that their attorney must be contacted in order to make the transaction and provides a number to call to provide the “Green dot” number. All attempts to obtain “Green dot” or loadable cash card numbers by telephone or email are fraud. For more information on “Green dot” cards visit the “Green dot” FAQ page at [Green Dot Prepaid Debit Card Help | Green Dot Corporation](#).



SOUTHERN SHORES POLICE DEPARTMENT
5375 N VIRGINIA DARE TRL
SOUTHERN SHORES, NC 27949
PHONE - 252-261-3331
FAX - 252-261-4851

Western Union and counterfeit check/money order scams are another way scammers obtain funds fraudulently. In these cases scammer will call or email the victim saying they won a sweepstakes, offer the victim a job, offer to purchase items victims have listed on Craigslist or other social media websites. The scammer will then make payment or a “prize payment” with a check or money order for more than the amount agreed upon. The scammer will ask the victim to cash the check or money order and to send the left over money via Western Union to a predetermined location. After the money is sent the victim will be notified that the check or money order was counterfeit and the funds will be taken from their account leaving the victim responsible for the amount of the check/money order. For more information on Western Union Fraud click on this link: [Consumer Protection](#).

“Reshipping” frauds are mostly used in conjunction with stolen credit card numbers. The credit card numbers are used to purchase goods online. The goods are shipped to an address of a person who believes they have obtained legitimate employment as a “reshipper”. This “reshipper” then sends the goods to a predetermined location outside of the United States. A good sign of “reshipping fraud” is fraudulent transactions from USPS on your credit card statement. For more information on reshipping fraud click on this link: [Reshipping Fraud](#).

In all cases of fraud a report should be filed with the local Police Department giving as much detail as possible of the offense. The victim should also file a complaint online with Internet Crime Complaint Center and follow all instruction as they are listed on the North Carolina Department of Justice website.

If anyone has any questions about fraud please contact Sergeant Brad T. Eilert or Investigator Matthew Cooke at the Southern Shores Police Department at 252-261-3331.