



Clerk Bock Warns Of Organized Schemes Targeting Timeshare Owners & Seniors

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Palm Beach County

Callers claim to be Clerk & Comptroller's office employees



Sharon R. Bock

Palm Beach County residents need to be on alert for two potential scams that appear to be targeting senior citizens.

At least two callers to the Clerk & Comptroller's office said they were contacted by someone named Jose Suarez, who directed them to send him \$250 through Western Union. Suarez told them that they were entitled to probate case money that he would get for them, if they paid him the \$250.

When the victims called the Clerk's office with case numbers Suarez had given them, it was discovered that the case numbers were invalid.

In other cases, out-of-state victims trying to sell timeshare properties were contacted by someone claiming to be a Palm Beach County courthouse employee. Victims were told to send money through Western Union to Jose Suarez or Nicholas Danforth, so they could collect from a non-existent timeshare victim's fund.

One victim in Connecticut sent the scammer two separate wire transfers totaling more than \$400. In the other cases, the victims called the Clerk's office rather than sending the money.

If you think you've been the victim of a scam, you should contact your local law enforcement agency.

It's important to remember: No one who works for the Clerk's office will call you and ask you to wire money to them. Please be wary of anyone who calls and says you're owed money, then demands payment up front to help you get that money. Chances are it's a fraud.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call my office at 561-355-2996 or e-mail me at clerkweb@mypalmbeachclerk.com.

Best regards,

Sharon R. Bock, Esq.
Clerk & Comptroller
Palm Beach County

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