



**JOE LESTER**  
Sheriff

DATE: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**  
**CCSO warns public of person impersonating deputy**

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office received a report Tuesday of a male who impersonated a sheriff's deputy and tried to solicit money from a citizen.

The report indicated the caller identified himself as Deputy Chris Noel. CCSO does employ a deputy with the same name but investigators have confirmed that Deputy Noel has not made any calls of this nature.

The caller informed the citizen that there was a warrant for that person's arrest. The impersonator instructed the citizen to get a Green DOT Charge Card. These cards can be purchased at retail stores.

Upon obtaining the credit card, the citizen was to call back at the number listed to arrange to give the card to the caller. The card would allegedly be used to pay off any fines associated with the warrant.

If the citizen refused to obtain the card, the warrant would be activated and the citizen would be arrested. After receiving the call, the citizen phoned the sheriff's office and reported the incident.

Similar scams have already been reported within the last three months.

Sheriff Joe Lester said all CCSO deputies carry their identification on them. Always ask to see an ID if there is question about the person claiming to be a law enforcement officer.

"Our department is very concerned about this latest report of someone impersonating a Cleveland County Sheriff's deputy," Lester said. "If you receive a call from this individual, hang up and immediately call the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office and report it. Do not send this person money for any reason or meet him in public."

The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office can be reached at 701-8888.

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff's Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.