



## OGEMAW COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

806 West Houghton Avenue – Room 109

West Branch, MI 48661

(989) 345-5700

Fax (989) 345-5913

**LaDonna A. Schultz**

Prosecuting Attorney

**Scott M. Williams**

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

### **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Contact Name: LaDonna A. Schultz

Phone Number: (989) 345-5700

### **CORONAVIRUS SCAMS**

West Branch, MI: Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney, LaDonna A. Schultz reminds citizens that during this current health crisis to watch out for scammers who are taking advantage of the fears and anxiety surrounding the Coronavirus. Some of the scams reported are:

1. **Misbranding products or claiming a product can treat or prevent the Corona virus.** Currently there is no FDA approved over the counter treatment for the Corona virus. Per the FDA, there are no approved vaccines, drugs or untried products currently available to treat or prevent the virus.
2. **Don't click on links from sources you don't know. These could be phishing-scams.** Do not use links to other websites that require passwords or other identifying information. Look twice to see if the email looks legitimate. If the information is for the general public, there is no need to submit login credentials in order to see it. If you have already handed over sensitive information, change your passwords now. For the most up to date information on the health crisis utilize government sponsored websites like the Center for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) or the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>).

3. **Some scammers are posing as charities to help people pay medical bills.** Do your homework before sending any charity money. If the charity will only take cash, gift cards or wired money, don't do it. The State of Michigan has a list of charities on their website that have been approved for direct solicitations.
4. **Impersonating health officials so people give up their personal information.** Public health officials will not be asking for SSN#s over the phone. Be leery of someone claiming to be a health official asking for personal identification information over the phone. If you suspect fraud, tell the caller you will call them back using the number listed in the phonebook.

If you suspect a scam, please contact your local law enforcement agency or the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office at (989) 345-5700. The Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office will post updates to reported scams on its Facebook page.