



SCAM ALERT: FRAUDULENT BAIL BOND SOLICITATIONS



The West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) has been notified of an ongoing scam targeting West Virginia residents with unsolicited phone calls from individuals falsely claiming to represent licensed bail bonding companies.

How the Scam Works:

- **The Hook:** Scammers call families claiming a loved one has been arrested and requires immediate bond payment.
- **The Pressure:** They use fear and urgency to pressure victims into sending money through wire transfers or gift cards.
- **The Fraud:** These individuals may **NOT** be licensed bondsmen and may use incorrect or fraudulent contact information.

Know Your Rights in West Virginia:

- **Licensure Required:** Under W. Va. Code § 51-10-8 and **114 CSR 103**, any person engaged in the bonding business must be licensed by the Insurance Commissioner.
- **Official ID:** Licensed bail bondsmen are issued an official picture identification card by the OIC, which they must carry at all times when working, and you may request to see this ID.

Protect Yourself:

1. **Verify the License:** Before sending any payment, verify that the bondsman is licensed by checking the most recent Licensed Bail Bondsman list.
2. **Hang Up and Call:** If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and check on your loved one. If you suspect they have been arrested and confined, you may use the West Virginia Regional Jail website to confirm. [Search - OIS Search](#)
3. **Report Fraud:** If you have been targeted, report the incident immediately to the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner at oicbailbondsmen@wv.gov

The West Virginia Insurance Fraud Prevention Act mandates the reporting of suspected insurance fraud. Help us protect our community by staying vigilant.

#WVInsurance #ScamAlert #ConsumerProtection #WVOIC #InsuranceFraud #WestVirginia