

Fraud Scam Alert

The Maryland Board of Physicians (MBP) has learned of an attempted fraud scheme aimed at licensees of the Board. In the scheme, scam artists identify themselves as the Board staff members or investigators and notify the licensee that they are under investigation, that their license may be suspended, or that an arrest warrant has been issued in the licensee's name, and then they will demand money.

In some instances, scam artists identify themselves as other entities including local police, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The callers may be "spoofing" The MBP telephone numbers to make the calls appear to be coming from the Board.

The Board staff members or investigators will never contact licensees demanding money or payment of any form or personalized information without conducting an official investigation or inquiry. If you receive such a call, please refuse the demand for payment.

Please also consider the following:

- NEVER disclose any personal information, i.e. social security numbers, date of births, or credit/debit card numbers.
- Be aware that MBP staff will never ask for credit/debit card numbers or information over the phone.
- If you receive a call, simply take down the caller's information (including name, title, phone number and email address), let them know you will follow-up directly with the Board, and end the call.
- You may also consider ending the call without explanation if it appears suspicious or to be a scam.
- If you receive a call, contact the Board directly at (800) 492-6836 to inquire if an official investigation is being conducted.
- If the caller is stating they are from the DEA, report the scam using the DEA's Extortion Scam online reporting form: <https://www.dea.gov/stories/2019/06/11/alert-extortion-scam-targeting-dea-registrants>
- If the caller is stating they are from the FBI, report the scam using the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center reporting form: <https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>
- If the phone number of the caller appears to be The Board's telephone number, report the scam using the Federal Communications Commission's consumer complaint form: <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/115002234203-Unwanted-Calls-Phone->