



COUNTY OF YOLO
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 18, 2012 **Contact:** Dave Edwards, Enforcement Officer
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FRAUD ALERT
BOGUS TECH SUPPORT CALLS

(Woodland, CA) –December 18, 2012-District Attorney Jeff Reisig is warning computer users to be aware of phone calls from scam artists pretending to represent well known companies like Microsoft, Dell or Norton. In the past week several local residents have reported that they received phone calls from scammers claiming to be with “tech support” and needing access to their personal computer to remove a virus or maintain the warranty.

Recently, on December 13, a scammer contacted a retired Yolo County employee telling her that her computer warranty was about to expire. The caller pressured her for over thirty minutes to “accept their service.”

These scammers usually ask for a credit card number to pay for the “repair” with a typical amount being anywhere from fifty to several hundred dollars.

“If you allow these callers to remotely access your computer they can quickly cause significant damage by installing programs such as spyware and keystroke readers,” said District Attorney Jeff Reisig. “These crooks can then gain access to everything on your computer like email contact lists, bank account information and secrete passwords. So, be careful.”

Citizens are urged to be wary of any phone call or email from someone claiming that there is a problem with your computer and they can fix it. As with any request that comes out of the blue, we strongly recommend that you independently verify that the caller is legitimate before giving out sensitive information or control of your computer. Be aware that caller ID can be manipulated to look like a local number and a caller pressuring you to act right away is always a “big red flag.”

For more information on how to recognize and avoid being scammed whether on the phone, computer or by mail please contact the District Attorney’s Office at (530) 666-8416.

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