

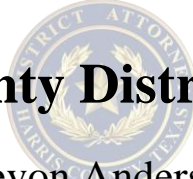
Belinda Hill
First Assistant

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Criminal Justice Center
1201 Franklin, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77002

Harris County District Attorney

Devon Anderson



Contact

Camille Hepola
Jeff McShan
En Español Will Mejia
Maritza Antu
W: (713) 755-0122

DA Warns of “Green Dot MoneyPak” Scam

Suspects Call Posing as Law Enforcement to Victimize Residents

District Attorney Devon Anderson today warned the public about a nationwide extortion scam that is now targeting Harris County residents.

Thieves, posing as law enforcement, are calling citizens to inform them that “a warrant has been issued for their arrest.” The thieves then tell the residents that in order to dismiss the warrant, they will need to pay a certain amount of money through a prepaid debit card called a “Green Dot Money Pak.” According to the Money Pak website, once you purchase the card, you can add money to it and make same-day payments to a company without using a bank account. Once the victim adds money to the card, the thieves instruct the victim to call them back with the PIN on the back of the card. Then the scammers immediately withdraw the money and transfer it to another account.

“No law enforcement agency, including our office, would ask for you to make a payment in this way,” said DA Anderson. “If you receive a call like this, the first thing you should do is look up the phone number for the agency the scammer is claiming to be with and call the agency for yourself. They will be able to tell you whether you have an active warrant for your arrest and, if so, the proper way to resolve the warrant.”

In Harris County there have been several reported cases of individuals being contacted by these con artists. Some of those individuals have actually fallen victim to this scam. If you think you are a victim or if you have received one of these calls, please report it to your local law enforcement agency.