

## ***Warning: Scam Calls Impersonating Investigators***

The West Virginia Board of Dentistry has been made aware of scam calls by individuals impersonating investigators from the WV Dental Board made to our licensed dentists. The Board encourages you to be cautious about any such calls you may receive of this type.

The scammers identify themselves as investigators, inspectors or agents and notify the licensee that they are under investigation relating to suspicious activity concerning their NPI number. The scammers tell licensees that their license may be suspended or that an arrest warrant has been issued in the licensee's name, and then they demand money directly over the phone. The threats can vary from disciplinary measures to legal action and arrest. The scammers are using techniques to appear legitimate, such as using false identification and "spoof" phone numbers. "Spoof" calls disguise a caller's true phone number and mimic valid phone numbers. In some cases, the scammers have used personal information of licensees such as their license number, address, and other details. Calls may be followed up with written scams demanding payment for nonexistent investigations.

Board staff or investigators will never contact licensees demanding money or payment over the phone as part of an investigation. Licensees are aware when they owe fines or other payments by way of Board Order after a hearing or Consent Agreement.

Any suspicious activity should be reported to:

If the caller is stating they are from the DEA, report the scam using the DEA's online reporting form.

If the caller is stating they are from the FBI, report the scam using the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

If the phone number of the caller appears to be a valid agency telephone number, please report the scam to the Federal Communications Commission using the Consumer Complaint Form.

You may also want to contact the WV Attorney General's Consumer Complaint Division.