



ROBOCALLS THREATENING ARREST

Consumer Alert

In the news:

A Michigan consumer sent us this [voicemail message](#) that they recently received:

“From the headquarters which will get expired in next 24 working hours. And once it get expired after that you will be taken under custody by the local cops as there are four serious allegations pressed on your name at this moment. We request you to get back to us so that we can discuss this case before taking any legal action against you.”

What you need to know:


If you answer a phone call and hear a recorded message instead of a live person, that’s a robocall, and it is probably a scam designed to get you to give your personal information or money. Do not call back and do not provide personal information over the phone unless you’ve initiated the call to a number you *know* is reliable.

Remember this: Government entities do not make robocalls threatening you with arrest or asking for immediate payment.

Calling on behalf of the government

Contact from the government gets your attention. Criminals know this and use the threat of government action to trick individuals in to taking action that results in theft. To get victims to call back or give out personal information, these scam messages say they have an “urgent” message about “important personal business” or “serious allegations” and that failure to respond may result in arrest or action taken against you.

SPOT IT: Fake messages

 Someone calls from the government instilling panic and urgency—there are pending charges or an outstanding case against you.



Listen for broken English or poor grammar: many robocalls are placed from foreign countries.



The top ten worst area code offenders for 2017 included: (202); (614); (469); (312); (817); (832); (210); (281); (909) and (214).

STOP IT: Don’t get scammed



Hang up if you are asked to pay with a cash-to-cash money transfer; a PIN from a cash reload card; or a remotely-created payment using your bank account information. It is illegal for any telemarketer to accept any of those forms of payment.



[Report government imposters to the Federal Trade Commission.](#)



Always ask for written verification of any debt. Never pay a debt by wiring money or using a pre-paid debit card. Even if you owe a debt, you still have rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.



Consider using an app for your mobile phone to block robocalls and likely scams. [RoboKiller](#) received an award from the Federal Trade Commission, but there are other options.



Learn more about robocalls, phone scams, and government imposters with our Consumer Education materials, including our Consumer Alerts on [Michigan Telemarketing Laws](#) and [Telemarketing Fraud](#).

To report a scam, [file a complaint](#), or get additional information, contact the Michigan Department of Attorney General:

Consumer Protection Division
P.O. Box 30213
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1140
Fax: 517-241-3771
Toll free: 877-765-8388
[Online complaint form](#)



Dana Nessel
Attorney General

The Attorney General provides Consumer Alerts to inform the public of unfair, misleading, or deceptive business practices, and to provide information and guidance on other issues of concern. Consumer Alerts are not legal advice, legal authority, or a binding legal opinion from the Department of Attorney General.