



**Shreveport Police Department  
Chief Wayne Smith**

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### **Scammers will try anything**

Shreveport Police would like to make the public aware that we have received word of multiple phone scams in our area. Today a concerned citizen contacted the Shreveport Police Department because a number appearing to be the Shreveport Police Department called her. A man identified himself as Chief Wayne Smith and made mention of several law enforcement organizations in an attempt to defraud the citizen.

No member of the Shreveport Police Department will ever send emails, texts, or make phone calls soliciting money or gift cards. Chief Smith wants citizens to take precautions and be armed with the most up-to-date tactics that would be scammers are using.

Today's scammer can clone phone numbers and make it appear as if the call is coming from different locations, such as police departments, schools, hospitals, etc.

The scammer may say you have a warrant for your arrest, owe taxes, or are otherwise in violation of law and then demand payment. They will often request this payment in gift cards or other unusual forms of payment, and threaten to arrest you if you don't pay. **A police officer or agent will never demand payment over the phone or online.**