



December 5, 2019

Telephone Scam using BC Courthouse phone numbers

Calls are being made claiming there are problems with the recipient's "Social Security" or Social Insurance Number (SIN) and demanding the recipient confirm their SIN to the caller or call a phone number that is provided. Sometimes a threat is made that the recipient will be arrested if they don't obey the caller's instructions.

The calls are made to display a telephone number that looks official. The phone numbers of B.C. courthouses are being used, as well as those of some government departments.

These calls are not legitimate. Fraudsters are masking their phone numbers with legitimate numbers in an effort to gain access to personal or financial information.

If you get a call like this, **hang up. Do not call back or respond to any threats or share any personal information with these callers.**

Tips issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada [to help reduce the risk of identity theft](#) and other types of fraud include:

- Don't give personal information such as a credit card number or Social Insurance Number over the phone unless it's to a trusted person or you initiated the call yourself.
- If someone calls unexpectedly and requests your personal or financial information, try calling the organization they are representing to verify that the request is legitimate. Reputable firms never ask for personal information without significant safeguards.

The Competition Bureau of Canada's [Little Black Book of Scams](#) offers more information on identity theft and other types of scams.

You can report scam calls to the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#).