

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: DATE 01/05/11
TIME: TIME 4:50 PM

PEACE OFFICER IMPERSONATION ALERT

MODESTO, CA- The Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department has learned of a recent scam in which a man is falsely identifying himself as a law enforcement detective. As an educational public service, and to ensure nobody else is needlessly victimized by this type of deception in the future, the Sheriff's Department wants to inform the public about what types of warnings signs to look for if somebody ever calls and misrepresents themselves as a detective.

Sometime during the last week of December 2010, a man calling from a 1-800 telephone number called a man residing in Stanislaus County pretending to be a detective working for the "Collateral Division". He was seeking out information regarding money and property owed to an undisclosed financial firm. The victim wisely took it upon himself to first verify whether or not the man was whom he said he was, but the situation could have turned out differently if the victim would have met with the suspect or provided any further personal information.

The public should know that the Sheriff's Department is not in the business of collecting debts on behalf of private businesses or companies without a proper civil process, and will never call from a 1-800 number. Sheriff's deputies will always identify themselves, the agency with which they are employed, and if asked, will provide an identification or badge number. The Sheriff's Department has no such "Collateral Division". We encourage the general public to always confirm whom they are actually speaking with by either calling the Public Safety Officer front desk at (209) 525-7114, or by calling non-emergency dispatch at (209) 552-2472. Never provide personal information to anyone on the phone unless you know who you are talking to.

"If anyone misrepresents themselves as a member of the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Departments, we encourage you to call us and let us know," said Sheriff Christianson.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).