



*Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D.
Clerk & Comptroller
Pasco County, Florida*

For Immediate Release – June 28, 2016

SCAM ALERT – PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D., Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, is warning Pasco citizens to be on the alert for scam artists posing as DEA agents. A recent attempt to defraud a member of our Office included a man claiming to be a DEA agent. He stated that if the victim did not call him back, a court order would be signed for their arrest. The teammate called the DEA office in Tampa and spoke to an agent that stated this incident was a scam. It is important to know that no DEA agent will ever contact members of the public by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment.

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be a DEA special agent or other law enforcement official seeking money should refuse the demand and report the threat to the Drug Enforcement Agency Office of Diversion Control. You should also report the incident by calling 877-792-2873.

Residents should also be on the alert for aggressive phone scams threatening that citizens will remain on the IRS "dirty dozen" list of tax scams for the 2016 filing season. The attempt involved a robo-call stating that they needed to immediately call the IRS or action would be taken against them. It is important to know that no IRS representative will ever call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill or demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe. Representatives will not require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card or ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone. No representative will threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

Anyone who receives a telephone call from a person purporting to be an IRS representative or other law enforcement official seeking money should not give out any information and hang up immediately. Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their "[IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting](#)" web page. You can also call 800-366-4484. Additionally, citizens may, report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "[FTC Complaint Assistant](#)" on [FTC.gov](#). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

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The Florida Constitution established a Clerk & Comptroller as an elected public trustee in 1838 and established at the county level a system of checks and balances to serve and protect the interests of the public. The Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D., is an elected Constitutional Officer who, under Florida Statutes, provides information management, record keeping, and financial management to the Circuit Court, County Court, and County Government. The Mission Statement of the Office is "We serve with integrity, professionalism, and compassion as we safeguard our customers' interests."