

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office  
205 Bedford Street, Suite G  
Hamilton, MT 59840



Chris Hoffman, Sheriff  
Stephen Holton, Undersheriff

**SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE**  
**February 11, 2015**

The Ravalli County Sheriff's Office has received reports of a phone scam in which the caller identifies himself as either "Officer Jack William" from the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office or "Officer Nick Flemming" from the "Bureau of Defaulters Agency."

Sheriff Chris Hoffman said that county residents who have received the calls report that the Sheriff's Office phone number, 375-4060, appears on their caller ID.

In each case, the reporting party has told deputies that the caller has an East Indian or British accent. The caller has left messages saying that the person being called needs to address an unspecified legal matter with Officer Fleming from the Bureau of Defaulters Agency, or else a non-bondable warrant will be issued for their arrest. The person being called is instructed to call "Officer Flemming" at 786-350-7842, a Florida phone number.

Sheriff Hoffman says that there is no such person at the Sheriff's Office, and that the caller is "spoofing" the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office public phone number. Hoffman asks that if you receive a call from someone claiming to be with his office, and you have any questions about the legitimacy of the call, please do call 375-4060 during business hours, or the Ravalli County 911 non-emergency number which is 363-3033.

"These types of calls are becoming more and more prevalent, and the perpetrators are looking for that one person who will bite, and give personal and financial information. You can often check these phone numbers on the internet, and you will find several web sites or blogs which will identify the numbers and the calls that come from them as scams." Hoffman reminds residents not to give personal or financial information over the phone. "We are taking many more complaints of this nature lately, and have learned that most are actually originating from overseas. That makes it nearly impossible for us to investigate, and it is very unlikely that prosecution will ever take place. That makes it so important that people not allow themselves to become victims. The easiest way to avoid these scams is to never give the caller your information, really, never do unsolicited business over the phone or internet."

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