

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

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Scam Prompts Changes to LCSO Website

On July 12, 2011, the Leon County Sheriff's Office modified the jail inmate search portion of our website. This was due to the fraudulent use of personal identification information obtained from online websites and public records databases, including the jail inmate search portion of the LCSO website.

Recently, both the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department have encountered incidents involving family members of Leon County Jail inmates being contacted by suspects posing as law enforcement officers attempting to defraud them.

The biggest change is the required search parameters for looking up an inmate in the jail. Until now, the search fields included wildcard searches (such as last names only). They also included booking date ranges which would allow searches for every person booked within extended periods of time. Now you must provide the first and last name, race, sex and date of birth for currently incarcerated individuals only.

This is how the scam works:

-Family members of inmates are contacted and advised of diversion programs such as anger management programs or drug rehab programs.

-There is always a time sensitive deadline involved and this causes a sense of urgency and the compelling need to act at once to help a loved one.

-Family members are told that they can greatly help their loved ones out by providing sums of money from \$250 dollars to \$1500 dollars for "registration fees" or other bogus programs.

If someone contacts you and advises you that a family member is in jail and needs money for a court program or registration fees to avoid prison sentences, contact your local law enforcement agency to verify this.

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