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NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Warns of Telephone Scams

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten warned Ventura County residents to be aware of possible scams involving fraudulent telephone calls from individuals posing as representatives of credit card companies. In recent incidents, a caller began by discussing credit card services, claiming to represent multiple credit card companies, and subsequently requesting identifying and account information from the call recipient. Residents should be aware that legitimate businesses do not call their customers to request sensitive information such as account numbers, passwords, dates of birth, home addresses, or social security numbers. Any request for this information should be viewed as highly suspicious and is likely to be an attempt to commit identity theft. This type of sensitive information should not be provided to any telephone caller.

If you receive a call claiming to originate from a company with which you do business, it is suggested you politely terminate the call and then call the business yourself from a previously published number, such as that found on the back of your credit card, your account statement, or the business' legitimate website. If you receive a call claiming to be from a company with which you do not do business, you should terminate the call.

If you have been the victim of actual identity theft, you should report it to your local police department. In addition, you should contact the three major credit bureaus, Equifax at (800) 525-6285, Experian at (888) 397-3742, and TransUnion at (800) 680-7289, and consider a credit monitoring service or a credit freeze for protection against new accounts being opened in your name. For additional information on what to do if you suspect you are a victim of identity theft, visit the California Attorney General's website at <https://oag.ca.gov/idtheft/facts/victim-checklist>.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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