



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From:** Sergeant Donna Black  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Scam Targeting Families of Inmates

**Date:** April 18, 2011

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The Hernando County Sheriff's Office would like to warn families and friends of jail inmates about a recent scam. Loved ones should ignore phone calls from anyone identifying themselves as jail officials asking for money to transfer their family member out of jail into a treatment program.

Hernando County Sheriff's Office wants to make it clear that no one from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office will call families or friends offering any type of service for someone in jail.

Recently, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office has learned that families from out of this county have been contacted by a person falsely identifying themselves as a jail official. The victim was told their family member could be transferred out of jail and placed in a treatment program for a certain amount of money. The victim fell for the scam and purchased a credit card as directed. The victim called the phone number she was told to call and gave the credit card number to who she believed was the "jail official." The victim later checked to see if her family member had been sent to the program only to find her loved one was still in jail and she was out the money. This case is still under investigation.

If this type of call is received, local law enforcement should be contacted immediately.