



# MEDICARE FRAUD ALERT

February 2014

Fake Collection Notices for Phantom Debts

## Fake Collection Notices for Phantom Debts

### How the scam works:

This scam comes in the form of an official-looking letter from a judge, law firm or court official stating that you owe money for an unpaid loan. It is particularly intimidating because it includes your correct name, address and maybe even your Social Security number! You may also receive a threatening phone call about the phantom debt trying to convince you to send money to collect on the debt.

**Best response?** No matter how convincing a letter or phone call seems, check it out. Look up the real number for the judge, law firm or court official from whom the letter/phone call supposedly originated to verify its authenticity. It's more than likely a scam!

Be suspicious if ANYONE asks you to wire money, or load a rechargeable money card as a way to pay back debt. There's no legitimate reason for someone to ask you to send money that way.

**REPORT all scams to the Arkansas SMP—866-726-2916**



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