



FOOD SAFETY INSPECTOR IMPERSONATOR

Now more than ever, retail food establishments need to be careful and avoid scams and fraud schemes designed to obtain credit card and/or banking information.

There have been recent reports that a scammer called a Pennsylvania restaurant and introduced himself as a health department inspector. The caller stated he was responding to a customer complaint and the restaurant was in violation. The caller cited a fake Pennsylvania statue, and suggested a mandatory inspection needed to be done.

The called then told the owner there would be a fee charged for the inspection, and that the inspector needed credit card and banking information. The restaurant owner refused and the caller hung up.

Please note, that City of Harrisburg food and health inspectors will never require that a food establishment pay a fee to conduct an inspection. Do not provide any financial or personal data over the telephone.

Inspectors do not call first, requesting payment of any kind. In addition, when inspectors arrive at the establishment to conduct an inspection, they are required to display City of Harrisburg identification. Again, the inspector should never request payment of any kind.

If you believe you or your business may be the target of a scam, contact authorities and the City of Harrisburg Health Office at 717.255.6563. You should verify the inspector's identity before providing any information or payment.