



The Vermont Board of Medical Practice continues to hear that Vermont medical professionals have been targeted by scammers posing as law enforcement or medical board investigators for wire fraud schemes.

The Board has previously alerted Vermont medical professionals of FBI bulletins about scams, and we are aware some Vermont medical licensees have been contacted recently by criminals for financial gain.

We are issuing this reminder that the scams are, unfortunately, on-going and there are ways you can protect yourself. Please take a moment to read about these scams so that you can recognize them and know how to respond if you are contacted by unknown individuals claiming to be medical board investigators, DEA agents or FBI agents.

Most of these cases begin with telephone calls, but there may also be text messages, emails and faxes. Some victims receive information allegedly detailing aspects of the investigation that feature official-looking letterhead, seals, stamps, and water marks from the FBI, DEA, and Department of Justice, as well as publicly available information such as the victims' National Provider Identifier numbers, license numbers and business address. Criminals may modify their schemes, so you cannot count on a ruse fitting this exact description, but there are **certain signs that are almost guaranteed to indicate you are dealing with a scam:**

- A demand or request for you to act immediately.
- A demand for money, account information, or protected personal information.

These scams are designed to take advantage of a person's fear of getting in trouble with a regulatory or law enforcement agency and to prompt action before you can think about the situation or seek advice. It is possible that any medical professional could receive a legitimate call from a regulatory body or law enforcement agency, but you can avoid being a victim if you remember one important lesson:

The Board (and other government agencies) will never contact you by telephone, text or email to demand money, account information or protected personal information in this way. Likewise, no legitimate regulator or law enforcement agent will force you to respond immediately and without opportunity to confirm their identity.

Most initial contacts are by telephone. If you receive such a call, we recommend the following:

- Ask the caller to provide you his or her name and the telephone number of the Board office (or other agency).
- Save the number they give you and look up the real organization that is supposedly contacting you to ask about the call you received.
- Do not provide any personal financial or identifying information.
- Report the incident to the local FBI Field Office. Licensees in Vermont should call the FBI Field Office in Albany, NY at (518) 465-7551. For other states check online at: <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices>.

When someone contacts you and claims they are a Board of Medical Practice employee, you may call our office to verify our staff is trying to reach you. Our office is open from 7:45AM - 4:30PM EST, Monday - Friday: (802) 657-4220 or you may email: AHS.VDHMedicalBoard@vermont.gov.