



CRIME PREVENTION TIP SHEET



Mystery Shopping Scams

This month's crime prevention tip deals with the newest scam I have seen and that is the Mystery Shopper Scam. You see an ad to sign up to be a mystery shopper and you call the number they send you an impressive looking letter telling you about the program and an equally impressive cashier's check for \$3,850.00 dollars with instructions to cash the check and go buy any electronic item at Wal-Mart.

You are to pay 75.00 or less and are allowed to keep this item. The second part of the scam involves you being trained in financial transactions and you are instructed to buy a money gram or western union money order and send it to a specified address. For this you receive five hundred dollars and the rest is sent to the scammers. The final insult comes when your bank notifies you that the Certified Cashier's check is no good and now you owe the bank 3800 hundred Dollars, you have just been taken.

This is a pretty ingenious scam and will take advantage of person who is not informed. Protect yourself. If it sounds too good to be true it probably isn't so don't participate. If you have questions call the Crime Prevention Unit at 305-466-8962.

Have a great safe and crime free month,

Ernie Long

Crime Prevention Officer

