



MEMO – DEA Scam Alert

To: St. Joseph's Physicians
From: Philip Falcone, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Date: March 29, 2023
Re: Recent scam calls to physicians

Please be aware of recent scam calls being made to physicians. One of our employed physicians received a threatening call from an individual posing as "DEA officer John Brown". He left a call back number: 571-307-2411. This appears to be a cell phone number and not the number of a DEA office.

The caller stated prescriptions for "large amounts of narcotics" with the physician's license stamp, along with a large amount of illicit drugs, had been seized in different locations in the country.

The caller proceeded to tell our physician the FBI had a warrant for his arrest and that he was looking at serious legal consequences. Our physician was then informed that "if he was innocent, and worked with the DEA to capture the culprits, that they would re-institute the licensure in order to capture the culprits".

The physician was told he could not disclose information about the call as there is a federal law imposing a gag order and disclosure would compromise the investigation. Additional statements were made by the caller, and he was transferred to another number stating it was the "Office of the Attorney General".

In addition, the caller had personal information about our physician - possibly learned from the internet (LinkedIn, Healthgrades).

The Drug Enforcement Administration is aware of this widespread fraud scheme. DEA personnel will **never** contact members of the public or medical practitioners to demand money or any other form of payment, will never request personal or sensitive information, and will only notify people of a legitimate investigation or legal action in person or by official letter. In fact, no legitimate federal law enforcement officer will demand cash or gift cards from a member of the public. You should only give money, gift cards, personally identifiable information, including bank account information, to someone you know.

If you are contacted by someone purporting to be a DEA agent or another law enforcement agency, please contact your local Privacy Officer.

More information is available here: <https://www.dea.gov/scam-alert>.