



# NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

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## **Board of Pharmacy Warns of Increasing Extortion Scam Calls During COVID-19**

The Board continues to receive reports of calls threatening legal action if an exorbitant fine is not paid immediately over the phone. The callers identify themselves as either Board of Pharmacy or DEA personnel and instruct their victims to pay the "fine" via wire transfer to avoid arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and license revocation.

The reported scam tactics are continually changing, but share many of the following characteristics:

- Callers use fake names and badge numbers or names of well-known senior officials.
- The tone of calls is urgent and aggressive; callers refuse to speak or leave a message with anyone other than the person for whom they are calling.
- Callers threaten arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and license revocation.
- Callers demand thousands of dollars via wire transfer or in the form of untraceable gift cards.
- Callers falsify the number on caller ID to appear as a legitimate phone number.
- Callers often ask for personal information, such as social security number or date of birth.
- When calling a medical practitioner, callers often reference National Provider Identifier numbers and/or state license numbers and threaten revocation of their license.

### **Board of Pharmacy and DEA employees do not contact healthcare providers or members of the public by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment.**

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be a DEA or Board of Pharmacy employee seeking money should refuse the demand and report the threat using the Board's online [complaint form](#) and the DEA's [online form](#). Reporting scam calls will greatly assist the Board of Pharmacy and DEA in investigating and stopping this criminal activity.