

# Beware of Scams

BY BARRY H. BLOCK, DPM, JD

Privacy as we once knew it no longer exists. This is largely due to the growth of the Internet, which has allowed for the creation of an enormous database of information on everyone. While this powerful tool can be helpful to many, such as those wishing to trace back their ancestry, there is a dark side to this. Criminals have found the Internet an easy way to accumulate a great deal of information on you which they can then use against you.



In April, the DEA warned doctors of an extortion scam in which doctors received telephone calls and emails by criminals identifying themselves as DEA employees or other law enforcement personnel. The criminals masked their telephone number on caller ID by showing the DEA Registration Support 800 number and threatened to suspend the doctor's DEA registration if immediate payment was not made.

In another scam, advertisers of this publication were contacted via email from individuals attempting to sell them lists of *Podiatry Management* readers. Of course *Podiatry Management* would never sell such a list to an outside source, but for these bad actors, it's a numbers game and they know that a small percentage of people will fall for their scam.

The best defense to any scam is to be wary of any proposal you receive via email or by phone. Investigate to make sure that the company is legitimate, particularly when the offer seems too good to be true. Caution is truly your best insurance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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