



Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Larry Ashley



SCAM ALERT

Computer Scam In Okaloosa County

Recently the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has received phone calls where citizens have had their computers hacked and blocked. Criminals are hacking into citizens home computers. Once the computer has been hacked, the screen goes black/blank, and a notice appears " This Computer is BLOCKED call to UNBLOCK for \$300 the FBI at # " or citizens receive a phone call. The caller tells the citizens to press certain keys and follow a set of directions. Once the citizen does what the caller asks, their "computer is taken over." Remember these important tips for setting up a secure computer system and operating your home computer:

- Make sure you are running Anti-virus software at all times. Also, make sure the program is up to date every time you start the computer
- Use a higher level of internet explorer security than the default setting
- Use extreme caution when following unknown links
- Never click on "Advertising Pop-ups;" they might infect the computer. If the computer opens a new page on its own, **shutdown immediately**
- Get MalwareBytes and run it weekly. It is FREE at
 - malwarebytes.org

If your computer has been hacked, shut it down and call a computer expert.

To report a fraud or scam call the
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office
Fraud & Scam Hotline at
850-651-7674