

From: Virginia Board of Counseling  
Date: March 11, 2021  
Subject: Scam Alert 3/11/2021



## Virginia Board of Counseling Scam Alert 3/11/2021

Please be advised that the Department of Health Professions (DHP) has been made aware that some licensees have received fraudulent communications from individuals claiming to be from one of our licensing boards, such as the Board of Counseling, or another agency, such as the DEA. They fabricate official looking letterhead and call or text and make it appear as though the number is that of the Virginia Board of Counseling. Please know that the Board of Counseling will never contact you to ask for money or personal information. If you are the recipient of any communication of which you are skeptical, contact the Board of Counseling for confirmation that it was sent by the Board or that it came from a scammer.

The communications, often by phone, may threaten arrest or license suspension, demand personal information, or require the payment of fines. Please note:

- Phone calls may “spoof” DHP or a Board and appear to be from our number;
- If you need to verify the identity of a DHP investigator or inspector, call the Enforcement Division at (804) 367-4691 or email [enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov);
- DHP will never demand that you provide personally identifying information, such as social security number, date of birth, bank or credit card account numbers over the phone;
- These types of licensing scams are a problem nationwide.

If you believe you are the recipient of a fraudulent communication claiming to be from DHP:

- Notify DHP’s Enforcement Division at 804-367-4691, or email [enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:enfcomplaints@dhp.virginia.gov);
- Report the communication to local law enforcement or the Virginia State Police;
- The Federal Trade Commission also accepts reports about “Imposter Scams” through the [FTC Complaint Assistant](#), or at 1-877-382-4357. These reports are used to aid ongoing investigations.

The Drug Enforcement Administration also has warned of imposters posing as DEA agents. Information and reporting of these scams can be found at [this DEA website](#).

You may also contact the Board directly at 804-367-4610 or [coun@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:coun@dhp.virginia.gov) with any concerns.