

PRESS RELEASE

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
Dave Phalen, Sheriff
221 E. Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130

Contact Person: Sheriff Dave Phalen
Phone: (740) 652-7252

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –CIRCLEVILLE MAN CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH TRAVELING BASEBALL TEAM SCAM

[Lancaster, Ohio, July 9, 2014]On July 8, 2014 at 6 p.m., the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office arrested Kelly Edward Neal, 40, of 429 South Court Street, Circleville, Ohio and charged him with one count of Forgery, F-5, punishable by up to 12 months in prison and \$2,500 fine.

The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau has been investigating a series of complaints from businesses and residents who reported they have been solicited for donations for a traveling baseball team by Mr. Neal. Upon investigating these complaints it appears that Mr. Neal was in fact using a forged Bloom Carroll Youth Athletics (BCYA) sponsorship form on behalf of the Fairfield County Bulldogs traveling baseball teams without their knowledge and permission.

"It is our belief Mr. Neal preyed upon innocent victims in various areas of the county and we are attempting to make sure all victims have been notified of this scam," stated Lt Tim Voris.

"These types of crimes will be aggressively investigated and those who commit financial crimes and victimize our residents will be prosecuted," stated Sheriff Dave Phalen.

Anyone that has donated to Mr. Neal recently on behalf of Bloom Carroll Athletics or Fairfield County Bulldogs is asked to contact Detective Jim Nicolai at the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau at 740-652-7338.

If you are approached by someone asking for money or a financial donation it is best to follow these practical tips:

- Obtain the solicitor's name, affiliated charity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you make a donation. Some con artists give out false names, telephone numbers, and addresses. Verify the accuracy of these items before giving any financial support.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question: "What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"

PR070914



Kelly Edward Neal