

809 Area Code Scam

Be cautious when responding to e-mails or phone calls from the 809, 284 or 876 area codes.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PROVIDED TO UNITED STATES RESIDENTS BY AT&T.

Fraudsters / pranksters are getting people to call someone at these area codes by telling you that it is information about a family member who has been ill or to tell you someone has been arrested, died, or to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc.

In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls. If you call from the U.S. , you will apparently be charged \$2,425 per-minute. Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges.

WHY IT WORKS:

The 809 area code is located in the Dominican Republic .The charges afterward can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong.

Both CU's and their members can be impacted by this scam. AT&T VERIFIES IT'S TRUE :
<http://www.att.com/gen/press-room?pid=6045>. AT&T offers the following information and tips:

- Return calls to familiar numbers only. As a general rule, return calls from numbers that contain familiar or recognizable area codes.
- You may call your directory assistance or long distance operator to check the area code location.
- Carefully read your telephone bill. Make sure that you only receive charges from your provider of choice. Ensure you thoroughly understand charges listed on your phone bill, have chosen to do business with all of the listed providers billing for those charges and have authorized additional fees invoiced. If your local service provider has changed, you will receive a final bill from the former provider and a notice of service disconnection

If you believe that you have been scammed:

Contact the carrier with whom the charge originated, whose name and toll-free telephone number should be printed on the same bill page as the charge in question. Often, the problem can be resolved with a single phone call.

If the carrier with whom the charge originated does not agree to resolve the problem, contact AT&T(or your phone service provider). AT&T will work with you and the carrier to help remove fraudulent charges from the phone bill.