



AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Reports of Unsolicited Calls from Unidentified Sources Claiming to be from the National Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222)

Alexandria, VA – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) has received reports from numerous Poison Control Centers across the country of individuals and healthcare providers receiving unsolicited calls from a caller ID badge identified as the National Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. These are not legitimate calls from Poison Control Centers.

Calls have ranged from silence on one end of the phone, to robo-calls, to aggression, to soliciting money, to asking for personal information. The caller has in some instances identified himself as “Justin” and in some instances has been reported as having a Caribbean-sounding accent. It appears that in many instances the caller is preying on the elderly—suggesting that they have little time left to live.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers reminds people that Poison Control Centers will never ask for personal information such as social security number or credit card information and will only call individuals to follow up on medical issues.

Please report any instances of these calls to Poison Control at the National Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 with as much detail as possible.

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About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)

AAPCC supports the nation’s 55 poison control center members in their efforts to treat and prevent exposures to drugs, consumer products, animal venom, environmental hazards and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline (1-800-222-1222), a service that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including

nurses, pharmacists, physicians and poison information providers. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**