

Hi Honey, A Hitman Texted. He Wants You to Know He Had a Change of Heart – It'll Only Cost You \$5,000

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I want to apologize to all of my fine readers and subscribers of *PI Magazine*. For years I have honored those wearing blue, yet, in my haste and blind appreciation for those in blue, I negated the fine hitmen in our society. As such, I offer to the hitmen community my apology for unwillingly excluding you from my appreciation and praise as do-gooders in our larger society. Allow me to explain.

It's January 1st. The promising new year delivers you a new client who states he recently received a text from a "hitman." As kindhearted as all hitmen are, this hitman experienced a change of heart and instead of killing your new client, the hitman honored the unspoken "do-no-harm code" that all hitmen adopt. He exemplifies this by offering to cancel the hit. That is, as long as your client pays him \$5,000 to do so. To make things easy, the hitman offered a painless [pun-intended], convenient payment option via a second text displaying a handy-dandy QR code.

Ending the hopefully comedic intro story, I've covered scam after scam among my numerous articles resting comfortably inside the many issues of the fine and powerful *PI Magazine*. Yet, this scam may take the cake. A "hitman extortion scam." I mean, if you can't trust your neighborhood hitman, who can you trust? Honestly, I think this is the last straw before humanity caves in

on itself. If I'm not mistaken, isn't not trusting your hitman the last sin we commit as a society before the four horsemen of the apocalypse show up?

While some may have never heard of this scam, it's been floating around for quite some time. Many reports detail these scams as having existed several years back and victimizing folks across the U.S. as well as extending all the way to our good friends in Australia. The context is nearly the same. A text appears out of nowhere on behalf of a good-natured hitman looking to cut you loose from the cold hard confines of a murder-for-hire contract. The catch, it'll only cost you whatever ransom number is offered by the same altruistic hitman.

Of course, this notice and request for money is another method to extort you. As far as you know it, and as far as these aforementioned reports say, there is no hit on your life. There's just a scammer who wants your money in a very creative way to convince you to quickly move your funds through fear. The simple response is to not respond! Many of these notices are sent via automated methods. Your response confirms their success at reaching a live person. This is when the scammers can escalate the matter by personally continuing the scam; thus, heightening the rate of their success to take your money from you. So, don't respond. Block the number and report it to the appropriate officials.

The unprecedented audacity of these scammers, in general, continues to push the envelope. Any way these folks can make money off of you will be pursued. Just as I've said before, the best offense is a solid defense. That defense entails a comprehensive education of these scams. In speaking with folks on this matter, many had never heard of this dreaded hitman extortion scam. This is dangerous because if you don't know about this scam, you may not be ready to thwart it. Considering the apparent fear it can instill in its victims, it's critical to acknowledge this scam before it engages you.

As I close yet another article, I challenge you to continue to keep up with the latest scams affecting people. In your pursuit of this education, avoid dismissing scams deployed in other areas of the globe and those offering context varying from typical scams. After all, scams are border agnostic and creative. In turn, we must absorb all reports of scams to be as comprehensive as possible in our efforts to avoid those who wish to cash in on us.

Until next time, be kind to your neighborhood hitmen, folks. After all, one day, they may find themselves taking a liking to your name being broadcasted across their hit list. It'll only cost you a large sum of your money. **PI**



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