**Reports of Unsolicited Calls From Unidentified Sources Claiming**

**to Be From the National Poison Help Hotline (1-800-222-1222)**

lb/2-13-18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Laura Brennan, (405) 271-5062

 Laura-Brennan@ouhsc.edu

OKLAHOMA CITY – The American Association of Poison Control Centers has received reports from numerous poison centers across the country of individuals and health care providers receiving unsolicited calls from a caller ID identified as the National Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. These are not legitimate calls from poison centers. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information has not received any such calls or complaints.

Calls have ranged from silence on one end of the phone, to recorded messages, 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. The caller has also been described as preying on the elderly, suggesting that they have little time left to live.

“The pharmacists and nurses who staff our center will never ask for personal information such as Social Security number or credit card information. They will only call individuals to follow up on medical issues or gather further information related to a call,” says Scott Schaeffer, director of the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information.

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

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 222-1222. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center. For more information, visit OklahomaPoison.org.

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