



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **US Marshals Service Telephone Jury Scam Advisory**

Citizens Targeted by Scammers Posing as Law Enforcement Officials

**NEW ORLEANS** – This advisory is being issued to warn the public of increased incidents of jury scams involving individuals purporting to be court or law enforcement officials seeking personally identifiable information (PII) or money from unsuspecting citizens.

This scam has resurfaced within recent weeks wherein a caller identifies himself as an officer of the court, a United States Marshal, or a local law enforcement official. The individual then informs the unsuspecting victim that he/she failed to report for jury duty and a warrant was signed by a judge ordering his/her immediate arrest. The scammer may also claim he'll need some information for "verification purposes," to include PII such as a birth date, social security number, or a credit card number. The scammer will use the obtained PII to assume the victim's identity, steal funds from the obtained credit/bank accounts or accept the wire money transfer which is not retrievable.

In this most recent scam, the caller demanded a wire money transfer and claimed that the Federal District Court Clerk's Office would reimburse the victim once they receive payment.

It is important for the public to remember that no legitimate business will require personally identifiable information over the phone nor will the courts ever threaten arrest or require payment of a fine over the phone. The public should also be suspicious and aware of the following scam indicators.

The Court will NOT do any of the following:

1. The Court does not send or accept jury forms by e-mail. The Court's official forms may only be submitted by U.S. Mail or over the secure "eJuror" website.
2. The Court does not serve a warrant by telephone, e-mail or fax. Valid warrants will always be served in person by a U.S. Marshal or other law enforcement officer.

3. The Court does not call, e-mail, or send a fax to tell you a warrant has been issued.

4. The Court does not demand the payment of money in lieu of being arrested. The Court does not call and request payment via prepaid credit cards.

Although the law does permit the Court to order fines and other penalties for failing to appear for jury service, this will only happen after an in person hearing before a judge.

5. The Court does not call, email, or send a fax requesting personal information such as a mother's maiden name or bank account number

. More information about jury duty scams is available on the U.S. Courts website

<http://www.laed.uscourts.gov/jury-information/jury-scams>.

To verify if a call or mailing came from the U.S. District Court, please call their office directly at (504) 589-7730 during normal business hours to speak with a member of the Jury Unit.

If you believe that you have been the victim of fraud or have received a scam phone call, phishing e-mail, or fax, contact your local police or sheriff's department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (504-816-3000), or the United States Marshals Service (504-589-6079).

[www.usmarshals.gov](http://www.usmarshals.gov)

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