

WARRANTS AND THREATS SCAMS (EX. JURY DUTY)

HOW THE SCAMS WORK:

The victim receives a phone call from an unknown person (SCAMMER) who identifies themselves as a member of law enforcement (Ex. Police Officer, Sheriff's Deputy, Detective, Federal Agent, etc...) and informs the victim there is a warrant for their arrest (Ex. Missing jury duty). The victim is told in order to quash (get rid of) the warrant, they must make some sort of payment (usually by buying gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, and/or providing cash, gold, or other precious metals to a courier). If the victim refuses to make the payment, they are usually threatened with arrest and/or other penalties.

JURY DUTY SCAMS

Per the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County (Maricopa County Superior Court) – “If someone were to miss jury service the Court would issue a failure to appear notice through the U.S. Mail, and potential jurors are asked to reschedule jury service for a later date...In the Superior Court for Maricopa County, fines associated with missing jury duty can only be ordered by a judge in court – not over the phone. To protect yourself, just remember that the jury office will NEVER call individuals demanding payment of any kind for any reason.”

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County (Superior Court) offers an age exemption for those 75+ years old from having to participate in jury duty.

Per the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona (Federal Court) – “The scammer may sound convincing and use real information about the victim, including their real address; real court addresses; and real names of law enforcement officers, court officials, and federal judges to make the scam appear more credible. Scammers may even ‘spoof’ the phone number on caller ID so that the call falsely appears to be from a court number (such as 602-322-7200) or the number of another government agency.

These phone calls are not from the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Marshals Service, or any other law enforcement agencies. You should not provide the caller with any personal information, credit card numbers, pre-paid card numbers, money, etc...

Here are the facts:

- The court will always send a jury summons by U.S. Mail.
- The court and law enforcement will never demand payment over the phone.
- The court and law enforcement will never demand payment over the phone or a gift card number to satisfy an obligation.
- A prospective juror who disregards a jury summons will be contacted through the mail by the court clerk's office and may, in certain circumstances, be ordered to appear before a judge. Such an order will always be in writing and signed by the judge.
- A fine will never be imposed until after the individual has appeared in court and been given the opportunity to explain his or her circumstances. If a fine is imposed, it will be in open court and reduced to writing (and will not be payable by Zelle or gift card number).”

The U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona (Federal Court) offers an age exemption for those 70+ years old from having to participate in jury duty.

Current warrant/jury duty scams involve scammers impersonating members of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office about missing jury duty in federal court.

*****It is important to remember the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office does NOT in any way enforce regulations associated with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona (Federal Court).**

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO AVOID BEING VICTIMIZED?

DO NOT COMPLY WITH ANY INSTRUCTIONS WHICH REQUIRE PAYMENT!!!

- Simply hang up on the unknown caller and/or do not respond to emails or text messages. If you have caller ID, do not answer calls from phone numbers that are unknown to you. Be sure to block these phone numbers.
- This scam has evolved, and the scammer sometimes uses the name of a real member of law enforcement to seem more legitimate.
- Scammers will also "spoof" phone numbers to look as though they are from a genuine Law Enforcement agency or Government official (Often, area code 202 is used as scammers claim to be federal agents calling from Washington D.C.).

If the unknown caller provides you with a phone number to call, do NOT call that number!!!

***Look up the phone number of your local law enforcement agency, or get it from a trusted source, and report the incident.

***If you have not broken the law, there is no warrant for your arrest. It is important to note that warrants CANNOT be quashed by just paying a fee. A warrant is an official court order requiring a person to be brought before a Judge. This is the ONLY way an arrest warrant can be quashed.

*****Law enforcement will NOT call you if you have a warrant for your arrest. You are NOT special. Law enforcement will NOT warn you or anyone else before an arrest.**