

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE JUDICIARY ISSUES WARNINGS ABOUT PHONE SCAMS

Bogus phone calls are on the rise, making false claims about warrants, jury duty, fines and fees and fraudulently demanding immediate payment.

In recent months the Delaware Judiciary has been made aware of a number of phone scams targeting Delaware citizens – and citizens in other states – where a caller claims to represent one of our courts, or a law enforcement agency working on behalf of a court, and demands money to resolve an arrest warrant, fine or some other outstanding matter. In recent weeks, the scam callers demand money from people for allegedly failing to report for jury duty.

In a scam that is currently making the rounds, the scammers have even texted a copy of a bogus “order of arrest” to victims who request documentation. Further, the scammers attempt to direct the victim to a specific non-governmental address to make a cash payment.

The Delaware Judiciary wants to assure the public that **these are not legitimate calls** and that **no one with our courts, jury services, Delaware State Police, or other law enforcement agencies would ever call and make such threats and demand immediate payment. Nor would officials direct individuals to an unofficial address.**

A red flag that these are scams is that they will demand immediate payment, usually in some difficult to trace form, like cash, gift cards or electronic payment systems like Venmo or Zelle.

The phone number shown on a caller ID may or may not be helpful as some scammers are able to fool caller ID into displaying an incorrect number and scammers sometimes use the names of actual court or police officials as part of their scheme.

If you receive a call like this, make note of the phone number if you have caller ID and any names used or claims made by the caller, hang up and immediately contact your local law enforcement agency. You can contact courts during normal business hours to check on any claims made during the call.

Delaware’s courts generally notify Delawareans about their obligations by mail and **will never demand payment in the form of gift cards or through money transfer apps like Venmo.**

If you have questions about jury duty, you can check to see if you have been summoned by calling Delaware Superior Court Jury Services at **302-255-0800** for New Castle County, **302-735-1901** for Kent County, and **302-855-7055** for Sussex County.

When a prospective juror has failed to report for Jury Service, they will be contacted by mail.

If you have a question or want to check on claims about court-imposed costs, fines, restitution or other fees, please contact the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) in person at OSCCE office locations or through other approved methods like state-operated payment kiosks at DMV offices. For more information visit the OSCCE [website](#), or if you have a question or need assistance in making a court-ordered payment call OSCCE at **(302) 255-0339**.

If you have a question or want to check on claims about an outstanding warrant, you can check for any outstanding warrants online at [Delaware Criminal Justice Information System](#).

You can learn more about phone scams by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's consumer advice webpage at [Phone Scams | Consumer Advice \(ftc.gov\)](#).