



NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. MARSHALS WARN OF SCAM

Dallas, TX– UPDATE U.S. Marshals for the Northern District of Texas are receiving rising numbers of phone calls from potential victims regarding attempts to scam DFW residents out of money. Callers posing as Deputy U.S. Marshals have been threatening the public with jail time for Failure to Appear and Contempt of Court Warrants if they do not pay a substantial fine. Approximately 15-20 potential victims are calling per day to report that they have been solicited in connection with this scam.

The U.S. Marshals Service is warning the public of a nationwide telephone scam involving individuals claiming to be U.S. Marshals, court officers, or law enforcement officials seeking to collect a fine in lieu of arrest for failing to report to jury duty. The U.S. Marshals Service does not call anyone to arrange payment of fines over the phone for failure to appear for jury duty or any other infraction.

In order to appear more credible, the scammers may even provide information like badge numbers and the names of actual federal judges and courthouse addresses. Victims have been told they can avoid arrest by paying a fine using a reloadable credit card, and were urged to call a number and provide their own credit card number to initiate the process. The Marshals Service urges the public not to divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers, even if they sound legitimate. Actual court orders can be verified through the U.S. Clerks Office.

If you believe you are a victim of the jury duty scam, you are encouraged to report the incident to your local law enforcement department, or to local U.S. Marshals or FBI office. For internet related fraud, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center can be contacted at www.ic3.gov.

Additional information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.

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