

## PRESS RELEASE

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Jury Duty Fraud

In various parts of the United States, citizens are being targeted by phone calls and emails threatening them with prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal court. Scammers use many tactics to sound credible. They sometimes provide information like case numbers, names of actual court officials and federal judges, and courthouse addresses. They may also spoof their phone numbers to appear on caller ID as if they are calling from the court or a government agency. In the calls and emails, recipients are pressured to provide confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud.

**These calls and emails, which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply, are fraudulent and are not connected with the U.S. Courts. Federal courts do not require anyone to provide sensitive information in a telephone call or email.**

Most contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. mail, and any phone contact by court officials will not include requests for money, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information. Please note:

- Jury duty is an important civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens.
- A court will always send a jury summons by U.S. mail and will never demand payment or sensitive information over the telephone.
- A prospective juror who disregards a summons will be contacted by the court clerk's office and may, in certain circumstances, be ordered to appear before a judge.
- A fine will never be imposed until after the individual has appeared in court and been given the opportunity to explain a failure to appear.

Persons receiving such a telephone call or email should not provide the requested information or make a payment, and instead immediately contact the Southern District of Florida Jury Section at (800) 865-1775 or (305) 523-5190.

It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. The federal judiciary takes seriously such an offense. If you believe you were a victim of such a scam, you are encouraged to report the incident to your local U.S. Marshals Service office and to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). You can also file a complaint online with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).