

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**May 6, 2024**

### **Jury Duty Fraud**

South Florida citizens are being targeted by scammers, both by U.S. mail and by phone, threatening prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal court. These fraudsters employ several tactics to appear credible. They often provide information such as case numbers, names of actual court officials and federal judges, and courthouse addresses. They may have personal information of the individuals targeted, including names, maiden names, and home addresses. They may also “spoof” their phone numbers to appear on caller ID as if they are calling from the court or other government agency, including local police departments. The mailings and phone calls pressure recipients to pay a fine or provide confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft. In some instances, the target is pressured to physically appear at a local police department, ensuring that the target leaves their home for a period of time, potentially leading to burglary or other crimes.

**Contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will never include requests for money, Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information. Further, a prospective juror will never be summoned to a location other than a federal courthouse in the district in which the juror resides.**

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. Any calls or correspondence from the Court should be verified by contacting the Court as instructed below.
- A fine will never be imposed until after the individual has appeared in court and given the opportunity to explain a failure to appear.

Persons receiving suspicious mail or telephone calls should not provide the requested information or make a payment. They should immediately contact the Southern District of Florida Jury Section at (800) 865-1775 or (305) 523-5190 or appear in person at any federal courthouse location within the District. Courthouse addresses are located on our website at: [flsd.uscourts.gov](https://flsd.uscourts.gov). **Do not call the number provided by the caller or on documents received as it may be fraudulent.** Please visit our website for more information, including samples of fraudulent jury documents.

It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. If you believe you were a victim of a jury 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](https://www.ic3.gov).