

For Immediate Release

Contact: Greg G. Allen, Forsyth County Clerk of Courts

JURY DUTY SCAM HITS FORSYTH COUNTY

A jury scam has returned to Forsyth County.

According to Forsyth County Clerk of Courts Greg G. Allen, callers are contacting residents of Forsyth County posing as a Forsyth County Deputy Sheriff or a Deputy Clerk from his office. The caller states, "You failed to report for jury duty and a warrant is being issued for your arrest." When residents respond that they never received a jury summons or notice to appear in court, the callers tell them that in order to avoid arrest and incarceration a fine can be paid by a "green dot card" purchased from a local drug store, typically a national known chain. Green Dot cards, and other similar cards, are prepaid MasterCard and Visa cards available at stores throughout the United States.

Allen explains, "My staff regularly contacts jurors concerning jury duty, but we never ask potential jurors for a financial transaction over the phone. If you receive a call from anyone who says he or she works for this office or Sheriff Ron Freeman's office and the caller ask you to pay a fine by a card, make a note of the caller's phone number and name if given, hang up the phone and do not talk to them." To assist law enforcement with stopping the scammers, contact the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office at 770-781-3087 or the Clerk of Courts Office at 770-781-2120, Option #2 with your information.

The scam's bold simplicity may be what makes it so effective. Facing the unexpected threat of arrest, victims are caught off guard and may be quick to respond to avoid being jailed. "They get you scared first", says Allen. "They get people saying 'Oh my gosh! I'm not a criminal. What's going on?'" That's when the scammer gives you a solution that will clear up the problem—just pay the fine, payable by a green dot card over the phone.

Allen states scammers that have been caught are typically already in prison, using smuggled smart phones to research and contact potential victims. The Clerk of Courts further states, "Under no circumstances should you purchase prepaid cards and give the card numbers over the phone. Innocent citizens have been fleeced of large amounts of money around the state; some counties are reporting amounts of \$500, \$3,000 and \$4,000." If you have any concerns regarding jury duty, the Clerk of Courts staff that performs jury management can be reached at 770-781-2120, Option #2, or by email at jury@forsythco.com. Please share this information to ensure that no one you know falls victim to these impersonators.

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