

For Immediate Release

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

JURY DUTY SCAM RETURNS TO FORSYTH COUNTY

A jury scam has once again returned to Forsyth County.

According to Forsyth County Clerk of Courts Greg G. Allen, callers are contacting residents of Forsyth County posing as law enforcement. 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 there is proof of signed delivery, and a warrant is active for their arrest. Callers are then told to avoid incarceration a fine can be paid by a "green dot" or similar card purchased from a local drug or grocery store or by depositing cash directly into a bank ATM machine account. "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 my 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, hang up the phone and do not talk to them."

The scam's sudden boldness is 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 offers you a solution that will clear up the problem—just pay the fine, payable over the phone or by ATM.

Allen states the scam has been occurring periodically the last decade, and the scammers are aggressive with their approach. In the latest attempts, the scammers have used the name of those on the command staff in the Sheriff's office and have also used his own name to try to convince potential victims the scam has legitimacy. 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; the latest attempts in Forsyth County involved the scammers asking for thousands of dollars." If you have any concerns regarding jury duty, the Clerk of Courts staff can be reached by email at jury@forsythco.com, or citizens can come by the Courthouse to discuss in person. Please share this information to ensure that no one you know falls victim to these impersonators.

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