

Press Release

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Alaska Court System Warns of Phone Scams

Anchorage, AK, August 31, 2023 - Currently, there are scams involving someone calling to impersonate a police officer regarding failure to appear for (1) jury service, or (2) a court appearance. Both scams ask for immediate payment.

Jury Service

The caller claims a judge has ordered the police to serve an arrest warrant for failure to appear for jury service. They request that individuals purchase gift cards to pay fines to show that they will appear in court and to avoid jail time.

Scammers may also try to warn individuals that police will be sent to their home if they do not immediately pay.

The Alaska Court system does not attempt to collect money from any person for failing to serve as a juror. Police will not be sent by the court to anyone's home to collect unpaid fines for failing to serve as a juror. Individuals receiving these calls should contact their local police department. If you are able to identify the caller's phone number provide this information to the police.

Subpoena for Failure to Appear in Court

There is a scam where a caller says they are from a police department and you were subpoenaed to appear in court but failed to appear so there is a warrant out for your arrest; the scammer then requests payment over the phone to drop the warrant.

Be aware no police department would ever call asking you for money to drop a warrant and it is a scam. If you receive a call like this, you can call your local police department to confirm this is a scam.

About the Alaska Court System: The mission of the <u>Alaska Court System</u> is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.