



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO

NEWS RELEASE



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information Contact:
Dayna Gonzalez,
Public Information Officer
(559) 457-1720
dgonzalez@FRESNO.COURTS.CA.GOV

ALERT REGARDING FRAUDULENT CALLS TO THE PUBLIC

The Fresno Superior Court has been alerted of members of the public receiving calls from someone purporting to be from the Fresno Sherriff Department. The fraudulent caller informs the resident that they have failed to respond to their jury summons and, as a result, a warrant has been issued for their arrest. The caller further states that the arrest is imminent unless the resident pays a fee.

In an attempt to substantiate credibility, the caller will often provide the name of a Fresno Superior Court Judicial Officer. Further, the fraudulent caller will have personal information about the resident, e.g., their name, date of birth, and Social Security number.

The Fresno Superior Court reminds the public that neither the court nor law enforcement agency will call county residents who do not respond to jury summons nor do we maintain Social Security numbers. The Court will only follow up by phone with jurors who have been seated on a trial and fail to report to their assigned courtrooms, as the cases cannot proceed without entire juries present.

Scams regarding failure to appear for jury summons occur regularly and vary in the types of threats. They are often designed to collect payment and/or leave a residence unattended for potential burglary. Commonly reported threats include claims that persons will be arrested or arrest warrants issued for them if they do not comply.

Persons receiving calls from individuals stating they are telephoning from the court or a local law enforcement agency are warned not to give out any personal information over the phone. If they think the calls may be legitimate, they are advised to either contact the law enforcement agency or the court's juror office directly after obtaining contact information independently from the court's website, www.fresno.courts.ca.gov. In addition, residents should report fraudulent calls to their local law enforcement agencies.

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