



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff's Deputies Warn of Law Enforcement Scam

November 16, 2016 —The Washington County Sheriff's Office has received complaints from the public concerning a warrant, jury duty or unpaid fees. The scammer asks for a payoff to avoid arresting the person that supposedly has a warrant, missed jury duty or had other financial issues.

The fraudulent person would call a citizen at random, identify himself as a Washington County Sheriff's Deputy, tell the citizen they had missed jury duty and needed to pay fees. Lately, there have been reports that the person will identify themselves as Lieutenant Troy Stevens, Court Investigator from the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Some people reported if they missed the call, the person would leave a message for them to call back at a 503 area code phone number.

The person would tell the victim that they will be arrested if they did not provide debit or credit card information to provide the court on their behalf to avoid an arrest warrant being issued.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will never call demanding money for any reason. If someone calls and attempts to convince you there is a warrant for your arrest, you missed jury duty or have unpaid fines or fees, please call the agency directly to confirm the allegation. We are advising anyone who receives a call like this to report it immediately.

Other local law enforcement agencies have received reports with similar circumstances. This scam is a variation of other incidents where scammers will call or email with the promise of something in exchange for cash, Green Dot prepaid cards, money wires, or any other form of payment. Prepaid cards are considered as good as cash. Once a person has the secret code located on the back of the card, your money is lost and very difficult to trace.

The Sheriff's Office encourages the public to never send money in any form if you did not initiate it or to someone you don't personally know. These requests are a concern for law enforcement with individuals attempting to cheat you out of your money with various methods.

Investigators are seeking the public's help regarding similar scam cases. If you have any information, or have recently received a solicitation that seemed suspicious, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 629-0111.