



Spokane County Court House

SUPERIOR COURT FOR SPOKANE COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spokane County Superior Court is warning the public about a scam in which victims are accused of failing to report for jury duty.

For several weeks, the court has fielded numerous inquiries from people who say they received a call from someone claiming to be an Police Officer, US Marshall, or Sheriff's Deputy representing the court. The caller would claim there has been an arrest warrant issued for failing to appear then tell the potential victims to pay up to \$2,000 with a cashier's check to cover the warrant. The caller also orders the person to appear in front of a Superior Court Judge on a specific date and time if they do not pay the money. The caller is familiar enough with Superior Court that they are using real Superior Court Judges names and Courtroom numbers.

The court does not call people or issue warrants in these matters, and court officers will never ask for a payment or personal information. The jury duty scam is common. According to the FBI, victims are caught off-guard by the unexpected threat of arrest and are more willing to give out personal information to defuse the situation. The scammers then use that information to steal a person's identity or empty a bank account, for example. This scam has been circulating throughout the Country in recent weeks.

Anyone who receives such a call is urged to hang up and contact Crime Check at 456-2233.

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