NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 25, 2024 Contact: Cierra Hipszky Project Manager 307-777-3391 chipszky@courts.state.wy.us

Wyoming Judicial Branch Warns Against Jury Duty Scams

Cheyenne, WY – The Wyoming Judicial Branch is alerting residents about an increase in jury duty scams reported in Wyoming. These scams are similar to those occurring in other parts of the country. Scammers are targeting citizens by impersonating law enforcement officers or court officials, claiming that the person has missed jury duty and now faces arrest unless they pay a fine immediately. These fraudulent calls often use high-pressure tactics and may even spoof phone numbers to appear as if calls are coming from a legitimate court or police department.

The scammers typically call, text, or email individuals, demanding payment or personal information to avoid legal action. They may claim that a warrant has been issued for the person's arrest due to failure to appear for jury duty and pressure the individual into making a payment through untraceable means like gift cards, wire transfers, or even cryptocurrency. The Wyoming Judicial Branch emphasizes that it does not use these methods to contact citizens and will <u>never</u> demand payment over the phone for missed jury service or other court-related matters.



Be suspicious of any phone calls, emails or texts from "law enforcement" or "court officials" that:

- Ask for financial information; and/or
- Threaten jail for failure to comply with a demand for funds; and/or
- Demand payment of funds anywhere other than a clerk of court's office.

Jury duty is a civic responsibility, and notification of jury service will always come through official communication channels, and are never in the form of a phone call demanding immediate payment. These notifications are only to be expected for individuals that have received a summons for a specified period of time and jury questionnaire in the mail. The Wyoming Judicial Branch is committed to ensuring the public is well-informed and protected against these scams. If you have questions about a claim, please contact reach out to your local court through official contact numbers provided on the <u>Wyoming Judicial</u> <u>Branch website</u>. Suspicious calls should be reported to local law enforcement and the <u>Federal Trade Commission's website</u>.

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