

United States District Court

District of New Mexico

Office of the Clerk

Pete V. Domenici United States Courthouse



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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WARNING: BOGUS PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS ON JURY SERVICE MAY LEAD TO FRAUD

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Citizens in various states across the U.S. continue to be targeted by phone calls and emails, and threatened with arrest and prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal courts.

In the phone calls and emails, recipients are pressured to provide personal identifiers and confidential information (social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card numbers, etc.). Threats of a fine and jail time for shirking jury service are used to coerce recipients of such phone calls and emails, into providing this information, potentially leading to identify theft and fraud. In addition, citizens are often asked to purchase a prepaid credit card and provide the card information to the scammer over the phone or in email. These phone calls and emails are not from real court officials.

Federal courts do not require anyone to provide any sensitive information in an unsolicited phone call or email. Initial notifications of selection to serve jury duty and requests to complete jury duty qualification questionnaires are always initiated by formal written correspondence through U.S. Mail, and instructions are provided for the juror participant to complete their questionnaires on-line over a secure connection.

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. However, it is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. The federal judiciary takes seriously such an offense.

Persons receiving such phone calls or emails should not respond or click any links in emails, and should notify the District of New Mexico Clerk's Office Jury Department at 505-348-2070.

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