

United States District Court District of New Mexico

Office of the Clerk

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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www.nmd.uscourts.gov

Warning: Fraudulent Arrest Warrants for Failure to Appear and Contempt of Court Continue to Circulate in the District of New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. –The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico has recently been notified of individuals being targeted with a variety of phone, text, and email scams. The targets have been contacted initially by phone or email by an individual claiming to be a member of local law enforcement. Emails often include an attached fraudulent Warrant for Arrest alleging the target failed to appear for either jury duty or as a witness for a grand jury. Targets may be asked to meet the caller at the “federal bonding building” to pay a fine and post bond, or they may receive a series of text messages or phone calls from various phone numbers with New Mexico area codes, advising that if a fine is paid immediately, the matter will be promptly dismissed. The name given by the scammer or appearing on the fraudulent warrant may be an actual judge, court employee, or member of the law enforcement/legal community, which helps the scammer legitimize their threats. The request for payment is not always made during the initial contact and payment methods requested include credit card, bitcoin, and pre-paid gift card.

The U.S. District Court will never ask for sensitive information in an unsolicited phone call or email and will not assess a fine or penalty for failure to appear in federal court without first having the person appear before a judge.

It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official and such an offense is taken very seriously by the federal judiciary. Persons receiving such an email, text, or telephone call **should not provide any requested information or pay any fines** and should contact the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) at (505) 889-1300, select option #1 when prompted, to report the incident. In the District of New Mexico, the individual may also contact the United States District Court at 505-348-2000 to verify that there are no matters pending before the federal court in their name, or

visit our website www.nmd.uscourts.gov/federal-court-related-scams to learn more about court-related scams. Many of these scams intertwine federal and state courts, and individuals may also benefit from contacting their state court to ensure no matters are pending before that court. State court information can be found at nmcourts.gov.

Stay current with the United States Courts – District of New Mexico by visiting
www.nmd.uscourts.gov

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