

WARNING: Jury Scams Regarding Jury Service May Lead to Fraud

United States citizens are being targeted by phone calls, emails and through the mail and threatened with prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal or state courts.

In the calls, the threat of a fine for shirking jury service is used to coerce individuals into providing confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls are not originating from actual court officials. Federal courts do not request sensitive information in a telephone call. The initial contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. Mail, and any phone contact by court officials will not include requests for social security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information.

The courts will never assess a fine or penalty for failing to appear for jury service without first having the person appear before a judge. Any document received through the mail requesting that cash, Moneypack, Green Dot card or similar be provided to secure a bond for failure to appear for jury service is fraudulent. In such cases, please retain the envelope and contents, and file a [Mail Fraud Complaint](#) with the [United States Postal Inspection Service](#)

Juror phishing email scams are also on the rise. Recipients are asked to provide personal identifiers (social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, etc.) on an attached form and email back to the originator. District courts never request personal identification information be returned in an email response. Our requests to complete a summons questionnaire or qualification questionnaire are initiated by formal written correspondence that provide instructions for the juror and are authenticated over a secure connection.

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. 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 a telephone call, bogus email, or suspicious jury mail correspondence should not provide the requested information nor should any money, Moneypack, cash card, green dot card or similar be provided; instead please contact the Clerk of Court's office of the U.S. District Court, District of Columbia at 202-354-3360. In addition, persons receiving such jury scams are encouraged to report these to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) to formally document the complaint.