



NEWS RELEASE –

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DENVER DA WARNS OF RETURN OF ‘FAILURE TO APPEAR JURY SCAM’

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann is warning citizens to be aware of the re-emergence of a long-running ‘jury scam’.

The scam involves someone calling potential victims posing as an official from a law enforcement agency, such as a sheriff’s office, police department, the U.S. Marshal, or even the district attorney’s office and threatening the person with arrest because the victim failed to appear for jury duty unless he or she pays a fine immediately. Typically, the caller will instruct the victim to purchase a pre-paid credit card(s) and call back with the activation/serial numbers on the back of the card in order to have the “arrest warrant” dismissed.

“As with most scams, the call seems legitimate,” DA McCann warns. “The scammers are able to provide badge numbers of an officer or court official, names of courtrooms and addresses and even make caller ID appear as if they are calling from a governmental agency.”

Recently, the Denver District Attorney’s Office received a call from a Denver District courtroom advising that a woman was asking whether a warrant for her arrest for failure to appear for jury duty had been dismissed. The victim explained that she received a call the previous day from a ‘Deputy Sheriff Eddie Biggs’ and told she had missed jury service and had a warrant out for her arrest. The ‘deputy sheriff’ instructed her to go to Rite-Aid and buy two Green-Dot cards, one for \$249.86 and another for \$237.23, and to call him back with the numbers on the back of the cards. She did and he directed her to go to ‘Courtroom 403’ the following day to ensure the arrest warrant was cleared. The woman belatedly realized when she arrived at the courthouse that she had been scammed.

“Citizens should be aware that there is never a situation where someone can pay a fine to avoid a warrant,” DA McCann says. “All warrants must be served and then resolved by a court.”

The Denver District Attorney’s Office advises: If you get a jury duty-related call, don’t give any personal information or money to the caller. Instead, report the call with any available caller ID information to the local U.S. Marshals Service office or the local FBI office or call the **Denver DA’s Fraud Hotline 720-913-9179**.