Press Release United States District Court District of Utah

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Contact:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office warn the citizens of Utah and the surrounding states about a resurgence in a tele-phonic "missed jury duty" and "outstanding warrant" scam.

Several people in Utah have recently received phone calls from unknown individuals claiming to be U.S. Marshals, court employees, or law enforcement officers. The caller will tell the victim that he or she failed to appear for jury duty or for a hearing and that a warrant has been issued for their arrest or that a fine must be paid immediately. The victim is instructed that they must pay the "bail" or "fine" or be arrested. The callers can be very convincing, urgent, and intimidating.

A recent victim was told they missed a hearing on September 15th. The caller said that a subpoena had been served on her when she was out-of-state. (In fact, no one at her office or home received a subpoena for her.) She was then told to go into the courthouse, through security, and talk to a deputy to get a "subpoena packet." The caller did not ask for money, only that she come to the courthouse. Presumably, she would have then encountered the scammer or received a call with further instructions.

Another victim was recently told to meet with someone outside the courthouse to pay for failure to appear.

Other persons were told they had a warrant with a \$5000 bond. To pay the bond they were told to go to CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

The court has issued warnings about these types of scams previously. Do not fall victim to these scams.

If you believe that you have been the victim of fraud or have received a scam phone call, phishing email, or fax, contact your local police or sheriff department, the <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation</u> (801-579-1400), and the <u>United States Marshals Service</u> (801-907-2501).

If you have any concerns about a communication that purports to be from the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, contact the court at 801-524-6100. Authorized information about jury duty is available on the court website.

<u>US Courts Web Site Scam Warning</u> <u>U.S. Marshals Service Alert January 2017</u> <u>2013 Press Release</u>