



## Press Release

### United States District Court District of Utah

**Release Date:**  
December 1, 2017

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office want to warn the citizens of Utah and the surrounding states about a resurgence in a tele-ponic "**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 or other law enforcement officers. The caller will tell the victim that he or she failed to appear for jury duty and that a warrant has been issued for their arrest. The victim is instructed that they must pay the "bail" or a Deputy Marshal will arrest them. *The callers can be very convincing and some-times intimidating.*

According to the caller, in order to pay the bail, the potential victim is instructed to go to any type of store that sells prepaid cash cards (i.e., Smith's Food, Walgreens, Walmart, etc.) and to purchase a card in a designated amount. (The amounts have been anywhere from \$300-\$3000) The caller will then instruct you to provide them with the identifying number on the pre-paid money card. The caller tells you that this will satisfy the bail, and they may even have you report to the U.S. Marshal's Office afterwards, to make it sound more legitimate. However, once you provide that number from the pre-paid money card, the money is transferred to the caller and/or his organization and cannot be retrieved.

We want the public to be aware that:

***No law enforcement agency will ever have you use a pre-paid money card for the posting of bail.***

The U.S. Marshals Service is actively investigating this scam. If you are contacted by anyone claiming to be a U.S. Marshal or calling on behalf of the District Court Clerk, demanding cash for "bail" or to prevent an arrest by the U.S. Marshals, please take the following steps:

***\*Note the phone # of the caller***

***\*Remember the instructions provided to you by the caller so that you can relay them to our investigator***

***\*Contact Supervisory Deputy Jim Phelps at 801-831-0992.***

***\*You can also contact the USMS main number at 801-524-5693 for verification.***