

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Thomas M. Gould,
Clerk of Court

www.tnwd.uscourts.gov

Wendy R. Oliver
Chief Deputy Clerk

WARNING

**BOGUS TELEPHONE CALLS, TEXT MESSAGES, E-MAILS, AND FICTITIOUS
ARREST WARRANTS RELATING TO JURY SERVICE**

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. Sadly, citizens have reported receiving phone calls, text messages, e-mails, and fictitious arrest warrants that are not valid communications from a federal court.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee wants citizens to know that federal courts do not require prospective jurors to provide social security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information over the phone, through text messages, or in e-mails. Moreover, falsely representing oneself as a federal court official is a crime.

The following jury scams have been reported:

- Citizens have received telephone calls threatening a fine for shirking jury service to coerce those called into providing confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls are not from real court officials.
- Other citizens report receiving e-mails that appear to be grand jury subpoenas issued by United States District Courts. However, the official domain address for the federal courts is **uscourts.gov**; in this scam, the e-mails were sent from a **uscourts.com** address.
- An e-mail from **marriad-g@jury.highcourt.gov** stated that because the recipient had failed to report for jury duty, a warrant would be issued for the recipient's arrest within 48 hours. The official domain address for the federal courts is **uscourts.gov**; however, this e-mail was sent from a **highcourt.gov** address.
- People received text messages from friends or family members saying that their names had appeared on a Web site for failing to appear for jury duty, and that failing to appear carried a \$500 fine or 30 day jail sentence. The text also provided a phone number to call. A caller to this number hears a recorded message from the "National Justice Center" stating that the caller failed to appear the preceding Monday and consequently faces a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail. However, the call is revealed as a hoax near the end of the message or when the caller presses a number for further information. The caller is then urged to forward the text on to other "gullible" people.
- Citizens have received fictitious criminal arrest warrants. The message offers them a chance to avoid arrest through the payment of a specific amount.

Citizens receiving threatening phone calls, text messages, e-mails, or fictitious arrest warrants for failing to report for jury duty should never provide sensitive personal or financial information about themselves or family members, nor should they arrange to make payments to anyone. Citizens receiving threatening phone calls or correspondence should report it to the Clerk of Court's office, 901-495-1500, or to the United States Attorney's Office, 901-544-4231.

For more information about federal jury service, please go to the court's web site, <http://www.tnwd.uscourts.gov>.

Updated: 8/29/17