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PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY
For Your Immediate Attention

DON'T FALL FOR A JURY DUTY SCAM

Madera, California – “Just when you thought you had heard enough of scams, here comes another one - threatening you with jail. The scammers are using jury duty to steal from the innocent,” said District Attorney Michael Keitz.

The way it is being presented is that you receive a phone call from a person identifying themselves to you as a sheriff’s deputy or court bailiff. This caller tells you that you have missed jury duty and an arrest warrant has been issued for you. They may also tell you that they need your personal information to match it to the arrest warrant; ie. name, date of birth, social security number, etc.

Once they have “verified” that you in fact are the person named in the arrest warrant, the caller will say you that you can avoid being arrested by paying the bail or the fine. Once you have agreed to pay the fine, additional information will be asked in order to obtain credit card information.

These calls are not legitimate. They are trying to scare you into paying money that you do not really owe, by threatening to arrest you.

To avoid this jury duty scam keep in mind:

- If you have missed jury duty, the courts will usually send you a notice to appear in court.

- Sheriff's deputies or Sheriff's bailiffs will not ask for personal information or seek payment for fines over the phone.
- Never agree to send money to someone who you did not anticipate asking for the money.
- You should never share personal information, such as your social security number or bank account number with anyone who contacts you.

"If you receive a call like this, hang up and contact your local law enforcement agency," said District Attorney Keitz.

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