



Clerk **COMMUNICATION**

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SARASOTA COUNTY, FL

DATE: October 20, 2014

FROM: Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

RE: **Jury Duty / Arrest Warrant Scam Targeting Senior Citizens Is Again Reported In Sarasota County**

SARASOTA, FL— The Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller warns citizens of the resurgence of the jury duty scam, this time with a twist: **Senior citizens are being told that in order to cancel a warrant for their arrest—issued for their failure to report to jury duty—they must avoid contacting the Sheriff’s Office and instead load cash onto a money voucher or green dot card.**

Several senior citizens recently contacted the Clerk’s Jury Office to report such phone calls. Posing as a member of the Sheriff’s Office, the caller warns that their failure to appear for jury duty in September 2014 resulted in a certified letter being issued from the Clerk of Courts—and that 12th Judicial Circuit Court’s Judge Bonner has issued a warrant for their arrest. The caller further insisted that if the victim called the Sheriff’s Office to confirm the issuance of a warrant, they will be identified through phone records and immediately arrested. Victims are told to load a money voucher or green dot card in amounts ranging from \$600 to \$1300, and to phone the caller back for additional instructions. The scammer may then ask for a payment to be delivered to the Clerk’s Office, another county office, or for personal information so they can process a fine.

The Clerk of Circuit Court and County Comptroller’s office is responsible for issuing jury summons in Sarasota County, FL. Variations of [the jury duty scam and potential identity theft has been reported since 2005 in multiple states](#), including Florida. Please note that **Clerk of Court employees never make requests of jurors for payment of fines over the telephone, and do not request personal financial information.** Protecting yourself against telephone-based scams is simple: **Before acting on an unsolicited request for money regarding jury service, contact the Clerk’s Office at (941) 861-7400 to confirm whether the caller’s claims are legitimate.** Unless you have initiated the call, and intend to do so, never give out your personal information over the telephone.

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