

Protect Yourself From Court & Jail Scams

DO NOT FALL FOR THE FAKE CALL!



NEVER SEND MONEY OR GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFO

Government agencies will never contact you to make payments.

Never provide your credit card, date of birth, or social security number.



YOU WILL NOT BE CONTACTED TO MAKE PAYMENTS

Nobody from the courts or law enforcement will ever demand immediate payment over the phone by wire transaction, let alone in cash, or use pay programs like GreenDot, Zelle, CashApp, Venmo, Paypal, or gift cards.



BEWARE OF FAKE OR SPOOF PHONE CALLS

Be extra careful when answering calls or texts from unknown numbers or unfamiliar persons. Scams can be "spoofed" to appear coming from an official number, even though the call originates from out of state or overseas.

WHEN IN DOUBT, HANG UP AND CALL THE AGENCY THEY ARE IMPERSONATING



WARNING

Public Defenders will never ask for money or any payment. Any money requests for freedom are likely a scam.

Requests for court fines and fees can also be fraudulent, such as trying to scam money with fake notifications. Hang up and call your county court clerk to verify any outstanding fees or fines.



SEE BACK PAGE FOR SCAM DESCRIPTIONS



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EXAMPLES OF REPORTED SCAMS IN DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN

Below is a description of the types of scams being reported to the Metro Nashville Davidson County Office of the Public Defender.



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SCAM DESCRIPTIONS

There can be other variations of these scams that happen by mail. Be aware.

- Fraudulent callers threaten individuals on probation, demanding money to avoid re-arrest.
- You or a loved one receives a letter offering a 90-day program for early release from prison for a fee.
- A person sends a notice or calls claiming you missed jury duty and you must pay a fine to avoid jail time.
- A person calls claiming to be a GPS company and asks for money to get a bracelet put on in order to be transported to a rehab facility or get released early.
- A person claiming to be a Bail bondsman calls for a "fee" to secure your loved one's release.
- Someone calls posing as bondsmen and says a child or grandchild has been arrested and desperately needs to be bailed out.
- Someone calls, posing as a public defender, asking for bail money.
- The scammer advises family members that a public defender has worked out a great deal in which a DUI case is dismissed or the charges dropped if a relative pays for the vehicle's damages.
- The scammer tells the family that the public defender has negotiated a deal allowing the case to be dismissed and the loved one to be released from custody. Then, they provide a way to pay restitution and where to send the money.
- Do not pay referral fees. Anyone can call or come to the public defender's office to inquire about services.

REPORT A SCAM

Remember, you're not alone. If you receive a scam phone call, refuse the demand and reach out to your local law enforcement agency.

Or

<https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>



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