



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

**NOTICE REGARDING SCAM PHONE CALLS BY SPOOFERS USING
GOVERNMENT PHONE NUMBERS AND NAMES DEMANDING
PAYMENTS**

The U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island is alerting the public of several imposter scams involving individuals pretending to be court officials, U.S. marshals, or other law enforcement officers.

During these calls, scammers attempt to collect a fine or personal information, such as a social security number, routing number, credit or debit card numbers. The scammers say that the person will be arrested if they don't provide this information because the victim failed to report for jury duty, a court appearance, or other offenses. They attempt to convince victims they can avoid arrest by withdrawing cash and transferring it to the government by purchasing a prepaid debit card or gift card and read the card number over the phone to satisfy the fine.

Scammers use several sophisticated tactics to sound and appear credible. They sometimes provide information such as badge numbers, names of actual federal judges, law enforcement officers, and courthouse addresses. They also routinely spoof their phone numbers to appear on caller IDs as if they are calling from the Court or government agency. They will often threaten individuals with fines, prison time or other penalties if they fail to comply with their demands.

Things to remember:

- The U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island or any court or law enforcement agency will, under no circumstance, ever ask for credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers for any purpose.
- Never divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.
- If you are unsure, authenticate the call by hanging up and calling the Clerk's Office at 401-752-7200 to verify the court order given by the caller.

For further information or if you should have any questions, please visit the Court's website at www.rid.uscourts.gov or contact the Clerk's Office at (401) 752-7200.

October 29, 2023

Hanorah Tyer-Witek
Clerk of Court