

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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County Executive Shapiro urges caution after increased reports of jury duty scams

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Shapiro is urging residents to take caution after a recent increase in reports of jury duty scams. This scam often involves someone impersonating a government/law enforcement official who claims there is a warrant out for your arrest because you missed jury duty and now you must pay a fine to avoid jailtime.

If you receive a call like this, the most important thing you can do is take a moment to pause and hang up. Even if the phone number looks familiar or appears to come from a number associated with the Summit County Sheriff's Office or another government agency, hang up and dial the trusted number yourself to verify the call's legitimacy.

It is a common scam tactic to “spoof” phone numbers associated with government agencies so that it appears the scam call is coming from a legitimate source. This tactic, combined with the scammer’s urgency and frightening consequences of jailtime and large fines, creates a very scary illusion that spurs individuals to act quickly.

“Scammers exploit the good intentions of regular people who just want to do the right thing,” said Executive Shapiro. “We know it feels counterintuitive because so many people want to take care of business and not be in trouble, especially when the scammer is so forceful in their urgency. But the best thing you can do to thwart them is slow down and hang up immediately.”

The Sheriff’s Office does **not** call residents to notify them of outstanding warrants or unpaid fines, nor do they issue warrants for missing a jury summons. No government agency will request or accept payments in gift cards, Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies, gift cards, or other similar forms of payment. If you believe you have received a jury duty scam call, please report it to the Summit County Sheriff’s Office Dispatch at 330-643-2181.

Victims of scams often feel shame and embarrassment, preventing them from reporting the crime. These scams get increasingly sophisticated and it can be difficult in the moment to remember to pause and hang up. If you have been victim of a scam, it is important to know you are not alone, and it is **not** your fault.

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