

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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County Executive Shapiro Urges Caution with Civil Traffic Notice Text Scams

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Shapiro is warning residents about scam text messages claiming to be from the “Civil Enforcement Department of the Ohio District Court.”

The fraudulent messages typically involve someone impersonating a court official, reference a fake case number, and demand immediate action. Additionally, the messages often threaten consequences, such as automatic driver’s license suspension, if payment is not made right away.

Traffic violations will never be communicated by the “Civil Enforcement Department of the Ohio District Court” through text, call, or email. They will only be issued **by mail** from local and state government agencies.

Some red flags to look for in these traffic scams include:

- The text will come from an unknown sender.
- The message will create a sense of urgency with a strict deadline.
- You are asked to click a link or scan a QR code.
- The message includes threats, such as an automatic suspension of your driver’s license.

However, there are ways to protect yourself and others:

- Remain calm and refrain from taking immediate action.
- Do not click on links or scan QR codes.
- Verify the phone number matches with your local municipality.
- Report the scam to your local law enforcement and the Federal Trade Commission.

“Scammers rely on fear and urgency to trick people into acting quickly,” said Executive Shapiro. “If you receive a suspicious message, take a moment to verify the information and do not respond.”

Whenever you receive a questionable text message, do not answer or provide any personal or financial information. To report a scam or learn more about protecting yourself, visit [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

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