

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

**SUPERIOR COURT ISSUES WARNING ABOUT PHONE SCAMS**

*Bogus phone calls are being made claiming arrest warrants have been issued and fraudulently demanding immediate payment to resolve them*

The Superior Court of Delaware has been made aware of at least two different phone scams targeting Delaware citizens where the caller claims to represent Superior Court, or a law enforcement agency working on behalf of the court, and demands money to resolve an arrest warrant.

In both scams the victim receives a phone call from a person (not an auto-dial computer) from what appears to be a Delaware-based phone number.

In the first scam, which the Delaware State Police are investigating, a victim received a phone call from a blocked number. The perpetrator posed as a police officer and told the victim that they failed to show up for court. The perpetrator then identified a Superior Court judge by name and claimed the judge was going to sign a warrant if the victim did not send money to “freeze the charges.” When the victim disconnected the call, the perpetrator called back using a spoofed telephone number that appeared to be coming from the New Castle County Emergency Operations Center.

In the second scam, the victim reported that a man informed her she owed \$7,000 for failing to appear for jury service and again identified a Superior Court judge by name as having signed an arrest warrant. The caller, who identified himself as a “Deputy” and a second man that identified himself as a “lieutenant,” had the victim’s address and date of birth and told the victim she needed to send the money via the digital payment platform Zelle or she would be arrested that day. When the victim expressed skepticism, the men told her they did not want her to call the court to confirm the information and became upset when she would not immediately pay.

The Superior Court wants to assure the public that **these are not legitimate calls** and that no one with Superior Court, jury services, Delaware State Police, or other law enforcement agencies would ever make such threats of immediate arrest or demand immediate payment or request electronic payment.

Delaware’s courts always notify Delawareans about their obligations by mail, **never by telephone.**

If you do receive a call about jury duty, you can check to see if you have been summoned by calling Delaware Superior Court Jury Services at [302-255-0800](tel:302-255-0800) for New Castle County, [302-735-1901](tel:302-735-1901) for Kent County, and [302-855-7055](tel:302-855-7055) for Sussex County.

Payments for court-imposed costs, fines, restitution, and other fees, are handled by the Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) in person at OSCCE office locations or through other approved methods like state-operated payment kiosks at DMV offices. For more information visit the OSCCE [website](#), or if you have a question or need assistance in making paying a court-ordered payment call the OSCCE (302) 255-0339.

You can learn more about phone scams by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's consumer advice webpage at [Phone Scams | Consumer Advice \(ftc.gov\)](#).

Anyone who believes that they have been the victim of these calls, or of any other crime, should contact local law enforcement.