

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

COURT CAUTIONS PUBLIC OF POSSIBLE IDENTITY THEFT SCAM

From time to time, the Court is advised about a resurgence of a nationwide scam in which citizens receive a telephone call from an individual claiming to be employed by a court. In the calls, the threat of a fine or arrest for failing to appear for jury duty is used to coerce the citizen into providing certain personal information, i.e. social security number, credit card number, etc., potentially leading to identity theft or fraud. In some instances, the citizen is given instruction to pay a fine immediately by purchasing a reloadable debit or credit card and to call a specific phone number to provide the card number for the payment to be made and the fine to be settled.

A new juror scam email which fraudulently seeks personal information has been reported. The email, claiming to be affiliated with the federal court eJuror program, states that the citizen has been selected for jury duty and demands that they return a form with personal information, including Social Security and driver's license numbers, date of birth, cell phone number and mother's maiden name. The email further states that anyone who fails to provide the information would be subject to penalties. This email is fraudulent and has no connection to either the federal courts or the eJuror program.

Federal courts do not require anyone to provide sensitive information in a telephone call or email. Most contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. mail. Requests by courts to complete a juror qualification questionnaire online would be initiated by formal written correspondence. Such letters tell jury participants how to access an authenticated, secure online connections. The courts' eJuror program never requests that personal information be sent directly in an email response.

The Court cautions the public from providing the personal information requested in these calls and emails. If you receive one of these calls or emails, the Court suggests that you hang up and call its Jury Department at 313-234-5085. Be prepared to provide your name, telephone number and a detailed description of the call you received.

Any information you provide will be turned over to the United States Attorney's Office, which will determine whether further action is warranted.

Posted: August 2014