South Carolina Court Administration

Supreme Court of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2026

NOTICE: FRADULENT CALLS

Fraudulent Calls Regarding Jury Duty

The South Carolina Judicial Branch (SCJB) has become aware of an increasing number of fraudulent calls regarding jury duty scams targeting unsuspecting citizens of South Carolina. Though these scams vary in nature, they typically involve a person being called and informed they have failed to report for jury duty. The person is further told they have been assessed a fine or that a bench warrant has been issued for their arrest. The person is then instructed to provide credit card information, or to transfer money via a service such as Venmo or Zelle, in order to satisfy the fine or lift the bench warrant. The following information is provided to assist those suspicious of a call of this nature:

- Court personnel will **never** call and demand a payment for a fine over the phone.
- Courts very rarely issue bench warrants for failure to report for jury duty, and would never call demanding payment in order to have a bench warrant lifted.
- Individuals should confirm the court's phone number on the SCJB Website or the website for the county or city where the court is located. Call the court to ensure you are speaking to an actual court employee. There have been reports of court phone numbers being "spoofed" so they appear to be from a legitimate court entity.

Fraudulent Calls Regarding Bail

Another scam has also been reported to be occurring in South Carolina. Scammers will review public records to find a person who has recently been arrested and remains incarcerated. The scammer will call a member of the jailed person's family, demanding immediate payment by gift card, credit card, Venmo, Zelle, or other service to obtain the release of the jailed person.

Although in some instances a person may be required to pay bail prior to being released from jail, court personnel and law enforcement will never contact a family member about the payment of bail.