



For Immediate Release
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Minneapolis Office
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District of Minnesota

U.S. MARSHALS ALERT PUBLIC OF LATEST SCAM SPOOFING OFFICIAL PHONES

Minneapolis, MN – The U.S. Marshals Service, District of Minnesota, would like to alert the public of an imposter phone scam where con-artists spoof real US Marshals Service office numbers in an effort to trick people into sending money.

“This tactic is known as neighbor spoofing, where scammers using technology to modify what number appears on your caller ID to impersonate phone numbers from friends, local businesses, and in our case, law enforcement, to appear legit” said Chief Janelle Hohnke of the District of Minnesota.

“Our office is receiving hundreds of calls from people nationwide asking us why the Marshals are seeking money from them,” Chief Hohnke said. “We want people to know these calls are scams.”

The U.S. Marshals are urging people to report the calls to their local FBI office (<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>), and file a consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, which has the ability to detect patterns of fraud from the information collected and share that data with law enforcement.

During these calls, scammers attempt to collect a fine in lieu of arrest for failing to report for jury duty or other offenses. They then tell victims they can avoid arrest by purchasing a prepaid debit card such as a Green Dot card or gift card and read the card number over the phone to satisfy the fine.

Scammers use many tactics to sound credible. They sometimes provide information like badge numbers, names of actual law enforcement officials and federal judges, and courthouse addresses.

If you believe you were a victim of such a scam, you are encouraged to report the incident to your [local FBI office](#) and to the [FTC](#).

Things to remember:

- U.S. Marshals will never ask for credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers for any purpose.
- Don't divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.
- Report scam phone calls to your [local FBI office](#) and to the [FTC](#).
- You can remain anonymous when you report.
- If scammer provides a court order, authenticate the call by calling the clerk of the court's office of the U.S. District Court in your area and verify the court order given by the caller.

www.usmarshals.gov

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