

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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SCAM ALERT

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Clerk of Court's Office, U.S. Marshals, FBI Urge Public to Report Phone Scams

Chicago, Ill. - The Clerk of Court's Office for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the FBI are alerting the public of several imposter scams targeting residents of the Northern District of Illinois involving individuals claiming to be officers of the court, U.S. Marshals, or other law enforcement officials. 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.

Residents of the Northern District of Illinois receiving these scam calls should report the calls to the [FBI Chicago Field Office](#) 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.

Scammers use many tactics to sound credible. They sometimes provide information like badge numbers; names of actual law enforcement officials, federal judges or court officials; and courthouse addresses. They may also spoof their phone numbers to appear on caller ID as if they are calling from the court or a government agency.

If you believe you were a victim of such a scam, you are encouraged to report the incident to the FBI's Chicago Field Office and to the FTC.

Things to remember:

- The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will never contact anyone by phone about a fine or warrant.
- The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will never seek credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers over the phone.
- Do not divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.
- Report scam phone calls to the [FBI Chicago Field Office](#) at (312) 421-6700 and to the [FTC](#).
- You can remain anonymous when you report.
- Authenticate the call by calling the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Clerk's Office at (312) 435-5670 and verify the court order given by the caller.

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