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FBI and U.S. Attorneys in North Carolina Warn of New Jury Scam

The FBI Charlotte Field Office and the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of North Carolina are warning the public about a new, more sophisticated jury scam involving fake federal arrest warrants.

The scammers call victims or send emails claiming the victims failed to report for jury duty and there is a federal warrant for their arrest. To add additional credibility to their claims, the scammers either text or email a fake arrest warrant with the names of actual North Carolina federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors. The victims are told they can avoid jail time by paying a fine via a virtual currency machine or kiosk.

Additionally, they may manipulate caller ID information to make it appear as though the call is originating from a legitimate source, such as the courthouse or a government agency. They may discourage victims from paying the fine in person, claiming the office is closed due to COVID. Legitimate arrest warrants are not emailed or texted, they are served in person by a law enforcement officer or court official and never include a demand for payment.

Individuals need to exercise caution and skepticism when receiving unsolicited phone calls, especially ones asking for personal information or payment. The FBI recommends to never provide personal or financial information to unknown callers.

To avoid falling victim to common scams:

- Be wary of unsolicited phone calls, emails, or texts.
- Do not give money or personal information to anyone you don't know.
- Trust your instincts and hang up on any caller who makes you feel pressured or uncomfortable.
- Verify the authenticity of legal claims against you with the appropriate law enforcement agency or court officials.

If you believe you have been a victim of a jury duty scam or other fraudulent scheme, file a report with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.