

# BUSINESSSAFE

*BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.*

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## BusinessSafe Threat Topic: Jury Duty Scams

Scammers continue to use a variety of tactics for financial gain including the jury duty scam. The jury duty scam can be conducted via phone or email and typically consists of a scammer claiming the potential victim has missed jury duty and will be held in contempt of court if they do not comply with the scammer's demands. Scammers often seek to instill fear through threatening or pressuring them to supply the scammer with some form of payment.

**Jury duty scammers often claim to be or spoof the phone number of a law enforcement entity or other government entity.** The spoofed phone number gives the impression of legitimacy to the scammer. They may say they are with a legitimate agency to confuse individuals. Some entities commonly spoofed include but are not limited to Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices, State Attorney's Offices, U.S. Marshal's Offices, or Clerk of Courts Offices.

- In January 2020, a woman from St. Johns County in Florida received a call from someone claiming to be a Sheriff's Office deputy. The caller stated that she failed to appear for jury duty and arrest warrant would be issued for the woman if she did not purchase two debit cards worth \$415 and \$390.  
[Jury Duty Scam: Deputies Will Never Ask for Debit Cards to Avoid Arrest](#)
- In November 2018, an Okaloosa County resident lost \$1,500 after receiving a call from an individual fraudulently claiming to be a deputy with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office from a number that displayed "Okaloosa County" on the caller ID. The caller claimed that the individual had missed jury duty and would be held in criminal contempt if he did not pay the fines and court fees. The victim was asked to purchase multiple prepaid gift cards and provide the card information to the scammer.  
[Resident Loses \\$1,500 in Deputy Impersonation Scam](#)

**Scammers may also email individuals stating that they missed jury duty.** Scammers have been known to send documents to individuals via email that look official to appear legitimate. Some documents fraudulently emailed to victims have also included fraudulent bond payment amounts.

- In January 2019, a Charleston, South Carolina, resident received fake court documents via email alleging the victim failed to comply with jury duty instructions.



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### [A New Twist on Jury Duty Scams](#)

**Scammers frequently attempt to intimidate individuals with threats of fines, warrants, or jail time unless immediate payment is received.** They may even ask victims to stay on the phone with them while they go to the store to purchase the requested gift cards or wire money to a specific location. Other variations of the scam will demand that money and/or gift cards be sent to a specific location via the regular mail. Some of the most common payment methods scammers request is gift cards, wire transfers, or to provide personal banking information.

- In March 2019, a Collier County, Florida, resident was the victim of a jury duty scam. The individual purchased two prepaid debit cards and provided the pin numbers to the scammer to avoid the fake warrant issued for his arrest.

[Collier County Sheriff's Office: Beware of Jury Duty Scam](#)

- In July 2018, a Monroe County resident lost nearly \$10,000 as part of the jury duty scam. The scammer claimed the victim missed federal jury duty and demanded payment with various gift cards to avoid issues with the law.

[Sugarloaf Key Man Loses Nearly \\$10,000 in Gift Card Scam](#)

### **Ways to protect yourself from the Jury Duty Scams:**

- Beware of suspicious requests for payment. Scammers often request payment immediately via wire, prepaid card, or by providing your personal bank account information. Law enforcement entities do not require individuals to pay fines or fees with prepaid debit or gift cards.
- If you receive a call or email claiming you've missed jury duty, you can [contact the local County Clerk of Courts](#) to verify any missed jury duty dates.
- Report suspected jury duty scams to your local law enforcement agency.
- If you believe you are a victim of the jury duty scam, file a complaint with the Florida Attorney General's Office online at [www.myfloridalegal.com](http://www.myfloridalegal.com) or by phone at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM.

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