



Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sheriff Schmidt Issues Phone Scam Alert

Milwaukee, WI – Sheriff Richard Schmidt is alerting the public to a renewed phone scam. The Sheriff's Office received four reports yesterday from citizens who received phone calls using a sheriff's captain's name and threatening arrest for failure to pay fines associated with missing jury duty. Fortunately, none of those who reported the calls fell for the scam.

Sheriff Schmidt said, "the Sheriff's Office DOES NOT call citizens threatening arrest for failure to pay fines. If you receive a similar call, hang up. If you fall victim to the scam and suffer monetary losses, report the call by email to Sheriff@milwaukeecountywi.gov, or by phone to 414-278-4705."

Variations of the scam include the caller advising the victim they'll be arrested unless they provide pre-paid credit cards or gift cards to the caller. After giving the codes on the cards, the scammer transfers the money to their own untraceable accounts.

The phone numbers scammers use mirror actual Sheriff's Office numbers, a concept referred to as "spoofing." *Spoofing* occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. *Spoofing* is often used as part of an attempt to trick someone into giving away valuable personal information so it can be used in fraudulent activity or sold illegally.

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