



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2026

U.S. Marshal Service
Western District of Texas

U.S. Marshals in the Western District of Texas Issue Warning on Rising Scam Calls and E-mails

SAN ANTONIO – The U.S. Marshals Service for the Western District of Texas is urging the public to remain vigilant amid an increase in fraudulent phone calls from scammers posing as Deputy U.S. Marshals. Scammers are using these schemes to pressure unsuspecting individuals into providing personal information or sending money through untraceable payment methods.

These scammers commonly claim that the victim has an outstanding warrant, failed to appear for jury duty, or owes a fine. They demand immediate payment through prepaid cards, wire transfers, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or digital payment apps. To make the scam appear legitimate, they may provide fake badge numbers, use the names of law enforcement officials or federal judges, reference courthouse addresses, or spoof official government phone numbers.

While many of these scams involve individuals impersonating Deputy U.S. Marshals, scammers also frequently pose as federal judges, law clerks, court personnel, or other judicial officials to make their schemes appear legitimate. These individuals may falsely claim that a warrant has been issued, a court order has been violated, or immediate action is required to avoid arrest or other legal consequences. Members of the public should be aware that these tactics are designed to create fear and pressure victims into complying with fraudulent demands.

In addition to fraudulent phone calls, scammers have increasingly begun contacting victims by email and directing them to participate in fake virtual court proceedings, including fraudulent Zoom hearings. These emails often appear official, containing forged court documents, case numbers, judicial seals, or links to virtual hearings designed to resemble legitimate federal court proceedings. During these fake hearings, scammers may impersonate federal judges, Deputy U.S. Marshals, court personnel, or attorneys, falsely informing victims that they have missed a court appearance, violated a court order, or must immediately pay a fine to avoid arrest or incarceration.

The U.S. Marshals Service will never contact members of the public by telephone to demand payment, threaten arrest, or request personal or financial information. The agency does not accept payments through gift cards, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or digital payment applications.

To protect yourself from these scams, immediately hang up if a caller demands payment, threatens arrest, or requests personal or financial information. No legitimate law enforcement agency, including the U.S. Marshals Service, will call members of the public to notify them of an outstanding warrant, threaten immediate arrest, or demand payment to resolve a legal matter. If you are ever unsure whether a call is legitimate, hang up and contact the agency directly using an official government phone number or website.

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov. Online, business, and telephone scams should also be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at www.reportfraud.ftc.gov. Prompt reporting helps law enforcement identify emerging fraud trends, disrupt ongoing scam operations, and protect others from becoming victims.

Things to Remember:

- The U.S. Marshals Service **will never** request 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 may remain anonymous when filing a report.
- If you receive a call claiming to involve a court order, verify its legitimacy by contacting the clerk's office. Never rely on the phone number provided by the caller.

Additional informational about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov> or <https://www.usmarshals.gov/local-districts/western-district-of-texas>

###