



Cuyahoga County
Consumer Affairs
consumeraffairs.cuyahogacounty.us



216-443-SCAM (7226)

Arrest and Jury Duty Scams

If you get a call, text or email telling you that you're about to be arrested for any reason, including failing to appear for jury duty or a court appearance, hang up. It's a scam.

- **Scammers may pose as court officials or law enforcement.** Imposters may claim to be FBI, sheriff's deputies or local police to scare you into paying a fine to avoid an arrest.
- **Real law officers NEVER tell people they are on the way to arrest them.** Police do not call or email people to demand they pay money to avoid an arrest.
- **Arrest scams can be scary.** Scammers often spoof caller IDs to say things like "Sheriff" or "FBI." Some scammers have used the name of real sheriff's deputies to trick Cuyahoga County residents into believing arrest threats.
- **Scammers can create elaborate stories about why you're a suspect.** They might instruct you to immediately go to the Justice Center. Scammers intentionally try to make you panic so that you won't think clearly and will follow their instructions.
- **Do not call phone numbers provided by potential scammers.** You cannot verify a call is real by calling a number a scammer provides you.
- **Law enforcement will not demand you stay on the phone while you drive or visit your bank.** If someone tells you'll be arrested if you hang up, it's a lie.
- **Legitimate government agencies will never demand you pay them using unfamiliar payment methods.** Government agencies won't tell you to pay with retail gift cards, bitcoin, reloadable cards (like GreenDot) or provide a barcode to scan at a retail store.

Report suspicious calls and emails to Scam Squad at **216-443-SCAM (7226)** or online at cuyahogacounty.us/scamsquad.