

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Isaac C. Parker Federal Building, Room 1038

30 South 6th Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

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CHRISTOPHER R. JOHNSON
CLERK

WARNING

Bogus Phone Calls, E-mail or Text Messages Regarding Jury Service

Recently the clerk's office has received reports from Arkansas citizens who have received phone calls, e-mail messages or text messages concerning jury service. The calls or messages report that the citizen's name is listed on a Web site for failing to appear for jury duty or the threat of a fine for failure to appear. These calls or messages are hoaxes. There have also been reports from other federal courts that citizens have received calls threatening prosecution for failing to comply with federal jury service. In these calls, the threat of a fine for shirking jury service is used to coerce those called into providing confidential information, which could lead to identity theft and fraud.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas wants citizens to know that these calls or messages are not from court officials. Federal courts do not require prospective jurors to provide sensitive information in telephone calls or use text messages to contact or threaten prospective jurors. Finally, federal courts do not post on a Web site or any public site the names of jurors who failed to appear for service.

It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. Citizens receiving threatening text or e-mail messages or phone calls for failure to report for jury duty should never provide sensitive information (credit card numbers, bank account information, social security numbers, etc.) about themselves or family members. Citizens receiving these calls should contact the Clerk of Court's office in Fort Smith, 479-783-2143, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 501-221-9100 in Little Rock.