

Jury Scam: 2016

Unfortunately, a more recent jury scam has been reported in the District of North Dakota.

The caller left a message on an answering machine about a "final call for federal grand jury service". The message left a number to call: beginning with an area code and prefix which appears legitimate to that particular area. The call back number was listed as 720-608-5475; and answered as "Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service". Local authorities were notified.

Helpful Information:

In various parts of the United States, citizens are being targeted by phone calls and emails, threatening them with prosecution for failing to comply with jury service in federal or state courts.

In the calls and emails, recipients are pressured to provide confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls and emails, which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply, are fraudulent and are not connected with the U.S. courts.

Federal courts do not require anyone to provide any sensitive information in a telephone call or email. Most contact between a federal court and a prospective juror will be through the U.S. mail, and any phone contact by real court officials will not include requests for Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive information.

Jury duty is a vital civic responsibility and should be taken seriously by all citizens. However, it is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. The federal judiciary takes seriously such an offense.

Anyone suspecting a fraudulent call or email should contact the clerk's office at their nearest district court. Anyone who responded to a call or email should take appropriate steps to safeguard their personal and financial information, which may include contacting the major credit bureaus.