



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**News**

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## *Impersonating law enforcement officers*

### **Once again, warrant scams on the increase**

**PORT ORCHARD, Wash.** -- It's happening again. The unsuspecting... those who believe and trust others, unfortunately are once more becoming victims of telephone scams.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office is issuing this advisory to warn local, county and regional area residents of an on-going scam that has resumed in the West Sound area.

The sheriff's office has received complaint reports and information from other sources that a person purporting to be a representative of the sheriff's office has been telephoning county residents to inform them of outstanding warrants for their arrest. The reasons for the warrants vary, from missing jury duty to unpaid traffic infractions, to federal warrants issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

This is a classic scam that seems to live on, and on. Classic scams are such for a reason -- because they work! There's nothing like the possibility of an arrest to capture your attention, and your money. Posing as a law enforcement officer the scammer warns of your impending arrest unless payment is made immediately.

These con artists have taken to using the names of actual law enforcement personnel, gleaned from readily available public documents or from social media.

The perpetrators of these rip-offs even go so far as to advise potential victims that they should appear in a courtroom on a specific time and date concerning the warrant. The caller next advises that to avoid arrest and erase ("quash") the warrant, they must pay a sum of money via a prepaid card, such as a Green Dot prepaid Visa or MasterCard debit card, MoneyPak card, etc.

Those who have received these scam calls have reported that the caller sounds “credible... believable.” Their telephones indicate that the calls are originating from the “Kitsap County Sheriff’s Department,” a common scam manipulation.

Details: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/marcwebertobias/2018/06/11/caller-id-the-technology-made-for-scammers/#4a866abf6f2e>

**This is a con... swindle... trick! Do not become a victim. In reality:**

- The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office has no role in jury administration. Court services and jury administration are under the sole purview of the county clerk’s office. All communications regarding jury duty are sent to county residents in writing via the U. S. Postal Service.
- Neither the sheriff’s office nor the clerk’s office, or any department of county government, will initiate telephone communications with residents about jury duty, nor threaten anyone missing jury duty. Warrants of arrest are not issued for failure to appear for jury duty service.
- Questions about jury duty service should be addressed to the Office of the Kitsap County Clerk, jury administration, at 360.337.7166, ext. #6.
- The Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office is not an agent for the IRS or any other branch of the federal government. The IRS will not initiate communications to taxpayers by telephone, but rather through the U. S. Postal Service.
- Outstanding warrants of arrest are handled in person by uniformed law enforcement personnel. Warrants are not ‘erased’ (or ‘quashed’) by submission of a prepaid credit card.
- And, lastly: as a practical tip for personal protection and safety, **do not ever send money** in any form (check, prepaid card, money order, gift card, cash, etc.) to persons whom you don’t know personally or with whom you haven’t entered a business relationship.

Additional information: <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-fraud-schemes>

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