



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

WARNING: BOGUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS ARREST WARRANTS PART OF NEW SCAMS THAT MAY LEAD TO FRAUD

The United States District Court for the District of Connecticut and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts have issued warnings about two new scams potentially involving the federal district courts. These new scams are similar in nature to a scam that was identified this summer, in which citizens were the target of a phone scam that threatened the receiver with prosecution for failure to comply with jury service in federal or state courts. The threat of a fine for shirking service was used to coerce those called into providing confidential data, potentially leading to identify theft and fraud.

In recent days, two new scams have surfaced which involve the threat of criminal arrest if a fine is not paid. In the first scam, a fictitious arrest warrant on criminal charges is mailed to an individual, offering a chance to avoid arrest through the payment of a specific amount. The individual is again asked to provide confidential data and a credit card number to clear the charges.

The second scam involves a phone call stating that a warrant has been issued and the individual will be arrested if a fine is not paid. Further complicating the matter is that the calls appear to be legitimate court numbers, but are, in fact, bogus, as technology is being used to spoof the Caller ID system. While these scams are more prevalent in state and county courts, this particular scheme has been confirmed to have occurred in the federal court system, including the District of Connecticut.

These requests are not legitimate and do not originate from the court or other court related agencies. Federal courts do not require anyone to provide sensitive information in a telephone call, including requests for social security numbers or credit card numbers. It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official and such an offense is taken very seriously by the federal judiciary.

Persons receiving such a telephone call or delivered mail should not provide the requested information or pay any fines, and should contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at 203-773-6311, to report the incident. In the District of Connecticut, the individual may also contact the United States District Court at 203-773-2140 to verify that there are no matters pending before the court in their name.

Robin D. Tabora, Clerk
November 26, 2013