



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office  
SHERIFF ERIC FAGAN**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Bend County Residents Seeing Increase in Telephone Scams**

**(FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS)** – Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office (FBCSO) recorded a drastic increase in scams affecting innocent citizens recently, with demands for payment of money to avoid an arrest for a warrant that does not exist.

Over the past week, several residents reported unsolicited telephone calls persuading them to make an immediate payment to avoid an arrest. Large amounts of money were remitted via a payment app that is irrevocable.

Scammers consistently impersonate authority or trusted figures, such as a government official or family member. In the recent reports, a legitimate FBCSO employee name was mentioned by the scammer to create a fake emergency and sense of urgency. The scammer mentioned the warrant was issued for a failure of the citizen to appear for a federal jury summons. To avoid the arrest, the citizen was directed to pay via PayPal. Employees of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office, including warrant officers, do not call to collect warrant fees or to collect money for any type of state or federal jury summons. Employees do not conduct authorized business through wire transfers, payment apps such as PayPal, cryptocurrency, or gift cards.

To prevent being victimized by a scammer:

- Be cautious with unexpected calls from persons who create a sense of urgency and persuade you to send money to get out of a dilemma, help a family member, or even show willingness to invest money to get a prize or a grant.
- Scammers attempt to obtain your financial information, such as bank account details, social security number, driver's license, or other personally identifiable

information and will pretend to be an authority figure or trusted family member in distress.

- Scammers prey on a person's willingness to help others or to stay out of trouble.
- Scammers also exploit your personally identifiable information to commit identity theft, and obtain credit in your name, including loans, grants, and bank cards.
- If a caller or recording such as an AI voice asks questions (Yes/No), uses high-pressure tactics, or makes you feel rushed, it is likely a scammer.
- Some scammers also "spoof" legitimate numbers. Be skeptical and don't trust caller ID completely. Be wary of urgency or callers who create a sense of immediate danger.
- Do not give out information and hang up if you suspect the call is a scam.
- Money sent via PayPal, gift card, cryptocurrency, or payment app is not recoverable. This type of transaction is irreversible.

"We have seen a growing number of scams targeting our community, and we urge everyone to stay alert — if something feels off, it probably is," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "Protect yourself by staying informed and always double-check before giving out personal information."

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#### **About the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office**

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1837 and is the largest and most diverse law enforcement agency in Fort Bend County. The Sheriff's Office has over 900 employees, including 615 sworn peace officers and 22 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving nearly 900,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

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