



MEDIA RELEASE

Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

FBCSO Warns Residents of Costly Jury Duty and Bail Bonds Scams

Lauches "Scam Sunday" Public Education Campaign

(FORT BEND COUNTY, TX) – The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is warning residents about an increase in sophisticated scams targeting members of the community, including jury duty and bail bond scams that have resulted in victims losing tens of thousands of dollars.

In many cases, scammers are making their schemes more convincing by using the names of actual Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office employees and impersonating law enforcement personnel. They may use threatening or urgent language to pressure victims into sending money before they have an opportunity to verify the information. In a common **jury duty scam**, a caller claims the victim failed to appear for jury duty and now faces arrest unless a fine or fee is paid immediately. Scammers may identify themselves as law enforcement officers and use the name of a real FBCSO employee to appear legitimate.

FBCSO is also seeing **bail bond scams**, in which scammers contact victims claiming that a family member or loved one has been arrested and needs immediate payment to be released from jail. The caller may pose as a bail bondsman, attorney, or law enforcement official and pressure the victim to send money through services such as Zelle or Cash App, purchase gift cards, send Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency, or use other difficult-to-recover payment methods.

Residents who receive these calls are urged to slow down and independently verify the information before sending any money. Contact the appropriate law enforcement

agency or detention facility directly using a verified phone number rather than information provided by the caller.

Fort Bend County Woman Loses \$50,000 in Jury Duty Scam

On August 28, a Fort Bend County woman received a phone call that appeared to come from the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. The caller identified himself as an FBCSO captain and claimed the victim had failed to appear for federal jury duty and had warrants for her arrest.

The scammer warned the victim that she could be arrested if she went to the Sheriff's Office and instructed her to remain on the phone while following his directions. She also received text messages with additional instructions and was told she was under a purported "gag order" that prohibited her from discussing the matter with anyone. Fearing arrest, the victim followed the caller's instructions and withdrew **\$50,000 in cash** from her bank account. She was then directed to a Bitcoin ATM, where she deposited the money through multiple cryptocurrency transactions to satisfy the alleged fines and fees.

The victim ultimately became suspicious, stopped following the caller's instructions, and went directly to the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office to report the incident.

"These scammers are deliberately creating fear and a sense of urgency to keep people from stopping to question what they're being told," said Sheriff Eric Fagan. "We want our residents to know that the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office will never demand money to resolve a warrant or avoid arrest. If you receive a call like this, hang up, verify the information independently, and never allow anyone to pressure you into sending money."

FBCSO Launches "Scam Sunday"

In response to scams affecting the community, the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office is launching "**Scam Sunday**," a new public education campaign aimed at helping residents recognize scams before they become victims.

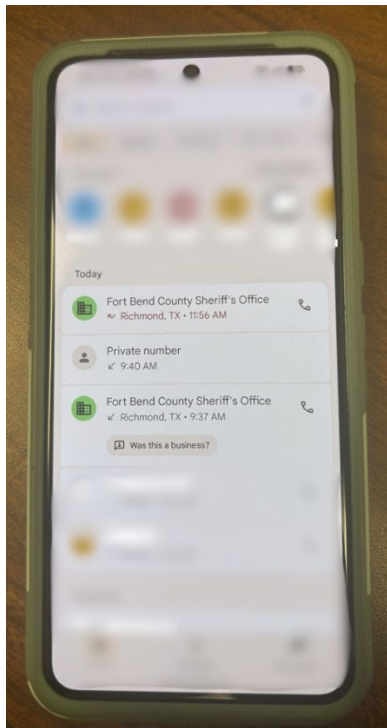
Every Sunday, FBCSO will share information about current and emerging scams, common warning signs, and practical steps residents can take to protect themselves and their families.

Remember:

- The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office will **never call or email demanding payment to resolve a warrant, legal matter, or to avoid arrest.**
- Only a judge can impose a fine.
- Be suspicious of anyone demanding immediate payment through gift cards, Zelle, Cash App, Bitcoin or other cryptocurrency, or similar methods.
- Do not rely solely on caller ID, a name, badge number, or other information provided by the caller.
- If someone claims to represent law enforcement, hang up and contact the agency directly using an independently verified phone number.

- Never allow urgency or threats to pressure you into sending money before verifying the situation.

Residents are encouraged to share this information, particularly with family members who may be more vulnerable to these types of scams.



Screen capture of an actual spoofed phone call

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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 800 employees, including 538 sworn peace officers and 20 reserve volunteer deputies dedicated to protecting and serving over 960,000 Fort Bend County residents. Among the 10 fastest-growing counties in the nation, Fort Bend covers 885 square miles and includes 21 unincorporated communities.

Visit our website | www.fbcsheriff.org

View our [2025 Annual Report](#)

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Download the FBCSO App: <https://apps.myocv.com/share/a108377469>

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