

## NEWS RELEASE

FROM JOHN ROBINSON, YANCEY COUNTY CLERK OF COURT

Scam warning:

On August 15, 2024, it was brought to our attention that a jury scam call had been going out to residences of Yancey County. The scam consisted of calls being made to residences of Yancey County where the caller stated that he was with law enforcement and that the person called had missed jury service. He would state that he was holding a warrant for the arrest of the called person and that person would be arrested. He would then state that the person could cure the issue by paying without being arrested. The caller would have the person stay on the phone until the amount requested was paid. The report we received was a large amount of money and local residences did pay this amount out of fear of being arrested. These callers are very convincing with their scam.

First, warrants are not issued for failing to appear at jury service. If a person fails to appear for jury service, then a show cause order can be issued. With a show cause, the person appears before a judge to give reason why they failed to comply with the court's request.

Second, law enforcement officers never accept payment for court issued processes such as warrants. While it's somewhat uncommon for law enforcement to call persons for warrant service, officers should never request or ask for payment over the phone. Warrant service is a judicial process and must go thru physical service before a judicial official such as a magistrate.

The Yancey County Sheriff and his Deputies serve the residence of this county with professionalism and do an excellent job. Warrants issued from this county, on residence of this county, will be served by local law enforcement. If you receive one of these calls, never provide personal information and never "Just pay to make it go away." Contact the Sheriff's Office at 828-682-2124 if you have received one of these calls. If you have any questions about jury service, call my office at 828-678-5700.

Thank you,



John D. Robinson, Yancey County Clerk of Superior Court