



## PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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Reference: Phone scam targeting Tarrant County residents

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office is warning residents to be aware of a phone scam circulating throughout the county. Scammers are impersonating TCSO personnel and falsely accusing individuals of missing jury duty, having unpaid fines or say they are under investigation for other fabricated crimes. The scammer claims the offenses will go away if the victim pays them immediately using gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.

These fraudulent callers spoof legitimate TCSO phone numbers and use the names of active personnel in order to appear credible. Be advised, TCSO does not call anyone to demand payment over the phone. TCSO does not accept gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency as valid forms of payment.

If you receive a call like this, please do the following:

- Hang up immediately.
- **NEVER** send any payment by phone.
- Document everything, including the name the scammer gave you, the phone number they called from and save any voicemails left for you.
- Contact the law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which you received the call. (Not the agency the scammer claimed to be from)
- In addition to local law enforcement, report the scam to:
  - Federal Trade Commission at [www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov](http://www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov)
  - FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

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