



NEWS RELEASE

GWINNETT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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GWINNETT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFERS TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID TWO RISING SCAMS

(Gwinnett County, Ga., October 4, 2023) – Criminals are always looking for ways to take advantage of citizens. The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office wants to provide our community with helpful information to avoid any possible scams. The Sheriff's Office urges everyone to be aware of two rising scams that have been occurring in Gwinnett County.

Scam 1: This involves individuals/scammers contacting citizens via telephone calls **claiming to represent or work for a bonding company.** These scammers will ask the citizen to send money via an online platform claiming this transaction will pay for their family member's bond. Once the funds have been paid, the citizen arrives at the Gwinnett County Jail only to learn that this was in fact a scam, and that no bonding company has paid their loved one's bond. **The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office displays a list of all the approved bail bonding companies legally allowed to conduct business in Gwinnett County on our official website.** You can access this list 24/7 by visiting <https://www.gwinnettcountysheriff.org/bonding-process>. This is the only website that displays the most current list of approved bail bonding companies in Gwinnett County. This list displays both the name of the bonding company as well as their phone number. Unfortunately, scammers have taken this public information and have made several fraudulent calls to citizens by "spoofing." Spoofing is when a phone call is placed by a person, or group that appears to be coming from a real phone number. This allows the scammer to make a phone call and appear to have the name and phone number of an actual business. This provides a false reality that you are receiving a phone call from a real bonding company. **The Sheriff's Office wants to emphasize to all citizens that an approved bonding company will never call and ask to receive funds of any kind over the phone to complete the bonding process.** The Sheriff's Office urges anyone that receives an unsolicited phone call requesting money of any amount to immediately end the call.

Scam 2: This occurs when citizens receive phone calls from **scammers purporting to be employees of the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office**. The scammers may even use actual names of Sheriff's Office employees. They claim that the person they are talking to has an active arrest warrant for not attending jury duty. The caller will claim that if you pay them a "fine" the arrest warrant will be dismissed. Do not give the caller any personal information. **The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office will never call you to request funds of any amount to satisfy an arrest warrant.** If you receive a phone call from anyone claiming to be a Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office employee requesting you to pay a fine for not attending jury duty, we urge you to immediately end the phone call and never give that person access to your personal financial information over the phone. If you miss jury duty, the Sheriff's Office and the Courts will not contact you by phone, all correspondence will be conducted via mail. If you have questions about missing jury duty, please call the **Gwinnett County Courts Jury Services** (<https://www.gwinnettcourts.com/jury-services/>) **at 770-822-8567** or the **Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office at 770-619-6500**.

As with any phone call you may receive, proceed with caution before providing any personal and/or financial information to anyone you don't know. The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing our community with the most updated information in order to keep you and your family safe from these disturbing scams.

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