



For Immediate Release  
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## **U.S. MARSHALS ALERT: NATIONWIDE UPSURGE OF PHONE SCAMS CRIMINALS FALSELY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS U.S. MARSHALS**

**Knoxville, Tenn** – The U.S. Marshals Service for the Eastern District of Tennessee is alerting citizens of a nationwide upsurge of scams in which callers pose as U.S. Marshals or U.S. Marshals Service employees and threaten imminent arrest or demand financial information for a variety of alleged crimes.

In the calls, recipients are pressured to provide confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls, which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply, are fraudulent and are not connected with the U.S. Marshals Service. “U.S. Marshals or other federal court employees will never contact someone to demand payment or personal information over the phone,” stated David G. Jolley, U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee. “While these callers may sound legitimate, we urge people to question the validity of their claims and to never provide financial data or personal information over the phone,” Marshal Jolley added.

There are multiple scams being reported nationwide. One such scam being reported in the east coast is where criminals are spoofing the district office’s real number to trick people into sending money. “Spoofing” is a tactic where scammers using technology to modify what number appears on the caller ID to impersonate phone numbers from friends, local businesses, and, in this case, law enforcement, to appear as if they were legitimate calls.

The U.S. Marshals Service is urging people to report the calls to their local FBI office (<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us>), and file a consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, which has the ability to detect patterns of fraud from the information collected and share that data with law enforcement.

### **Useful Things to Remember:**

- U.S. Marshals will never ask for credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers for any purpose.
- Do not divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.
- You can remain anonymous when filing a consumer complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.
- Authenticate the call by calling the agency the caller said they represented.

[www.usmarshals.gov](http://www.usmarshals.gov)

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