

Sheriff's office warns of jury duty phone scam

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The Merrimack County sheriff's office is warning residents of a recent phone scam in which callers impersonate members of the department and ask for hundreds of dollars to settle outstanding arrest warrants.

Capt. Harry Thornley said the department had received about four calls as of yesterday from people reporting the calls.

The scam is somewhat elaborate, Thornley said: Callers, typically male, tell people they are wanted for arrest because they failed to show up for jury duty. They are then told that they can clear the charge by depositing several hundred dollars to a Green Dot debit card. If anyone asks for further information, they are given a phone number that appears to lead to a prepaid, untraceable cell phone equipped with a knockoff sheriff's department voice mailbox greeting.

Anyone who receives a suspicious call should contact their local police department or the sheriff's office at 225-5584.