

# FRAUD ALERT



## BERNALILLO COUNTY METROPOLITAN COURT

Scammers reportedly using court information for chance at quick cash

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR | BRIAN S. Colón, Esq., CFE, State Auditor

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Upon information received from the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, the OSA is warning New Mexicans to be aware of fraudsters using public court records to scam residents. The court has reported that a number of people have contacted them stating they have received calls from individuals claiming to be law enforcement or a court employee and demanding cash to avoid being arrested.

“Don’t be fooled, if someone calls demanding cash in exchange for your freedom it is a scam,” said Auditor Colón. “No court or Sheriff in New Mexico will call you asking for cash to stay out of jail.”

“What’s really alarming is that these scammers reportedly not only know the name of the person they are calling, but they are citing actual case numbers, referencing the names of current judges and going by names of actual sheriff’s deputies,” said Court Executive Officer Robert L. Padilla. “The court will only notify you by mail of outstanding fines and fees through a court-issued summons or warrant. There are three ways to make a payment to the court; online, by mail or in-person. We, nor law enforcement, will ever ask to meet you at a location off-site for payment.”

According to the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court, another route scammers are taking is saying that the person has failed to appear for court as either a defendant or alleged victim and must pay an amount to avoid a deputy going to their home for arrest. Again, the court mails notices of hearings or a summons to appear for court. If a bench warrant is issued for failure to appear or non-compliance, it will be mailed. If you have a case pending with the court, it’s always a good idea to verify that the court has a current mailing address for you.

If you suspect that something may be wrong or you think you may have been a victim of this scam, please call the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court for assistance at: (505) 841-8151.

*The Bernalillo  
County  
Metropolitan Court  
will never call  
demanding cash  
in exchange for  
not being  
arrested.*

### TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

- A Sheriff or any other member of law enforcement will not call asking for money.
- The Bernalillo Metropolitan Court will not call you, all notices will be mailed.

**To report waste, fraud, or abuse in any public entity in New Mexico:**

**Report online: [www.saonm.org](http://www.saonm.org)**

**Hotline: 1-866-OSA-Fraud**