

NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee www.tnwd.ucourts.gov

September 24, 2020

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## **Important Public Notice**

The Clerk's Office for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee has been alerted to a malicious scam being perpetrated by currently unidentified individuals using a technique referred to as telephone "spoofing."

Calls have been made to targeted individuals that purport to be from telephone number 901-495-1200, which is the general number for the Clerk's Office in Memphis. These calls are, in fact, not being made from the Clerk's Office.

The perpetrator or perpetrators making these calls informs the recipients that a family member has been arrested and can be released from custody upon receipt of a bond payment of a specified dollar amount. Please be advised that the Clerk's Office will never request payments through telephone calls. All of these calls are fictious and none emanated from the U.S. District Court's Clerk's Office despite the Clerk's Office general number appearing on the caller ID.

Anyone receiving these sorts of fictitious calls should immediately call the Clerk's Office general number (901-495-1200 in Memphis or 731-421-9200 in Jackson) for assistance. In no event should money be wired or otherwise paid to anyone based on one of these calls.

This matter has been referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for further investigation and appropriate legal action.

Thomas M. Gould Clerk of Court September 24, 2020