

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2026

JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT

Saginaw County Circuit Court

&

Saginaw County Sheriff's Office

WARNING: JURY DUTY TELEPHONE SCAM TARGETING SAGINAW COUNTY RESIDENTS

SAGINAW, Mich. — The Saginaw County Circuit Court and the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office are jointly issuing this urgent public warning regarding a telephone scam currently targeting residents throughout Saginaw County. In recent months, more than a dozen residents have been contacted by individuals fraudulently impersonating court and law enforcement officials in an effort to extort money and steal personal information.

HOW THE SCAM WORKS

Victims receive an unsolicited telephone call from an individual claiming to be a representative of the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office. The caller falsely informs the victim that they have missed jury duty and threatens that a bench warrant will be issued for their arrest unless they immediately pay a fine ranging from \$500-\$1,000. In some instances, callers have provided the name of a former Saginaw County Sheriff's deputy as their own identity, lending a false sense of legitimacy to the scam.

When victims have attempted to call back the number displayed on their caller ID, the individual on the other end of the line has answered identifying themselves as the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office, further deceiving victims into believing the call is legitimate.

The consequences for residents who have fallen victim to this scheme have been serious. At least one resident paid the demanded \$500 in cash. Another resident provided their Social Security number and bank account information, placing them at significant risk of identity theft and financial fraud.

WHAT THE SAGINAW COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT WILL NEVER DO

The Saginaw County Circuit Court and the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office want the public to be clearly informed:

The Saginaw County Circuit Court does **NOT** contact individuals by telephone to notify them that a bench warrant will be issued if they do not pay money for failure to appear for jury duty.

If a prospective juror fails to appear for jury duty, the court's official process is to issue a formal written notice. That written notice will either reschedule the individual for jury service at a future date and time, or direct the individual to appear before the court to show cause as to why they did not report as summoned. Under no circumstances will a court official or law enforcement officer call a citizen and demand an immediate cash payment as a condition of avoiding a bench warrant.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

If you receive a call of this nature, take the following steps immediately:

1. Do not provide any personal information — including your name, address, Social Security number, date of birth, or any financial account information.
2. Do not send or pay any money in any form, including cash, wire transfer, gift cards, or digital payment applications.
3. Hang up immediately if the caller becomes threatening or pressures you for immediate action.
4. Report the call immediately by contacting the Saginaw County Sheriff's Office at **(989) 790-5420**. Providing information such as the phone number that appeared on your caller ID, the name the caller gave, and any other details will assist investigators.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS CALLS IMMEDIATELY

Saginaw County Sheriff's Office

(989) 790-5420

The Saginaw County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating these incidents. We urge all residents to share this information with family members, neighbors, and community members, particularly those who may be more vulnerable to this type of fraud.

Together, we can protect our community from those who seek to exploit the trust that citizens place in their courts and law enforcement.

Judge Julie A. Gafkay, Chief Judge, Saginaw County Circuit Court | (989) 790-5481

Sheriff William Federspiel, Saginaw County Sheriff's Office | (989) 790-5456