



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

FRANK J. PROVENZANO, SHERIFF

March 20, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beware of Jury Duty Scam

A new identity-theft scam has surfaced involving purported summonses for jury duty, according to Somerset County Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano.

In this scam, the criminal calls your home pretending to be a court official. The criminal informs you in a threatening manner that there is a warrant for your arrest because you failed to show for jury duty.

The caller then claims to be a jury coordinator and attempts to gain your confidence by assisting you with the matter. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the criminal asks for your social security number and date of birth in order to verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant.

“Please do not give out any information to anyone posing as a member of the jury system,” Sheriff Provenzano said. “Somerset County Jury Manager Norma Lo Savio advises that her office **never calls** prospective jurors to request such personal information. The Sheriff’s Office also will not ask jurors for personal information over the phone.

“This scam is particularly insidious because the callers use intimidation over the telephone in attempt to force people into providing personal information while pretending they are members of the court system,” he said.

The FBI and the Federal Court System have issued nationwide alerts on their Web sites warning consumers about the fraud. For more information visit the FBI Web site at www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel05/092805.htm or the source-annotated Urban Legends Web site at www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/juryduty.asp.