

Last Friday afternoon I received a call from a "Hidden Number" from an individual identifying himself as a Federal Agent saying that a warrant had been issued for my arrest for a failure to appear at a Federal Court Case as a juror. He said that I was sent a form with a court date and time for which I was to appear for jury duty. I told him I don't remember ever receiving or signing such a document. He said they have one on file and as a result of my failure to appear I was to go to my banking institution and withdraw \$22,640.00 in cash. Not a money order, not a Cashier's Check, only cash and drop it off at a kiosk he would direct me to once I had the cash in hand.

He remained on the phone telling me I was under a strict "Gag Order" and to remain connected and not hang up. He asked what I would say to the teller if asked what I needed that much money for, and I said: "For Personal Reasons." He said no; tell her it's for a new car.

When I informed him that my Credit Union was closed for the holiday, he asked where I was? I told him I was going to the Sheriff's Office at the County Court House to turn myself in. He insisted that I not do that and for me to pull over and wait for further instruction. He said there were some credit unions open in Idaho Falls and instructed me to head to I.F. He would constantly ask me for my odometer reading saying I would be reimbursed for my mileage. When I arrived at the first credit union, they said they were not affiliated with my credit union and couldn't help. I was then instructed to head to another credit union that told me the same. I asked him what would happen if I was unable to acquire the full amount and he said to get as much as I could and he would ask the "Judge" if he would accept a lesser amount. I was then told to go home, basically under house arrest instead of being fitted with an ankle monitor, and not leave my home until the banks open on Monday when I will receive further instruction.

Numerous times during the weekend we would lose the connection and he would call back almost immediately to reconnect. Sometimes just to ask if I was still there. Last night he called at 2:10, 3:05 and again around 5:00. He resumed calling again around 8:30 this morning asking when I would be able to head to the bank to get the money. He knew the banking hours. As a stall tactic, I told him I needed to shave, brush my teeth, shower, get dressed before having breakfast because I couldn't take my regiment of prescription drugs for a heart condition on an empty stomach. He repeated calling about every 15-20 minutes asking how much longer I would be and to notify him when I was heading to my truck and again when I was actually leaving home to head to the bank.

He, or they, were extremely convincing but still left some questions unanswered. Why cash only, steer clear of the Sheriff's Office, deposit cash in a kiosk as well as the exorbitant amount without receiving any documentation so I did a little research over the weekend. I found that the fine for a "Failure to Appear" is not to exceed \$1,000.00, 3-days in jail, community service or all three. Not \$22,640.00 as ordered to be dropped off in a kiosk.

Becoming increasingly suspicious, my son contacted the Bingham County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Jury Office with our rising suspicions on his phone since I was still connected with the scammer on mine. Both agencies confirmed this was most definitely a scam and to halt any and all communication with him immediately.

My son picked up my phone and asked if the person was still there? When he said yes, my son informed him that he had been in contact with the sheriff's office and the Federal Jury Office and they confirmed that this was a scam. He hung up and haven't heard from him since.

Submitted by an almost scammed victim.
Hope this helps to protect others.