



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

John Zanoni, Sheriff

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News Release

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Jail Scam

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office wants to make the public aware of an ongoing scam. We have recently received multiple reports of a person making random phone calls to residents where he identifies himself as a ranking member of our department. This person, who reportedly has a strong southern accent, is a fraud and does not work for the Fresno County Sheriff's Office.

In these documented cases, the scammer claims the citizen can get their loved one out of jail by paying a fee via Cryptocurrency or a digital payment like Zelle, Cash App, etc. The price can be hundreds or even thousands of dollars. The incarcerated person will be given an ankle monitor, then assigned to an intervention program. Once completed, the ankle monitor can be turned back into the jail for a full refund of their money. Again, this is FAKE. Do not fall for it.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office wants to make it clear to the public that it never makes solicitations for money or asks for the payment of fines over the phone.

These scams are scare tactics that tend to come in waves. They often prey on elderly citizens and those they see in vulnerable situations. It's important for everyone to stay aware of this trend and have a discussion with family and friends to educate and identify these fraudulent attempts. If you receive a similar call, do not give in to the caller's demands and do not give them any of your personal information. Please document any information, such as the caller's name or phone number and report it to the law enforcement agency overseeing your jurisdiction. The Fresno County Sheriff's Office accommodates online reporting for this type of matter. Please visit www.fresnosheriff.org and click on "Report a Crime" located at the top of the page. You should select "Harassing Phone Call" to make your report.

You may also learn of additional resources by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's website at: <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>

