

---

---

# LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## NEWS RELEASE



---

---

**DATE/ TIME OF RELEASE:** 12/5/2017 1:15 pm

**NATURE OF STORY:** Phone Scammer Claiming to be "Joshua Hart" from the Sheriff's Office

### **DETAILS:**

The Sheriff's Office has learned that community members are again receiving calls saying they have warrants out for their arrest for missing jury duty. The callers are identifying themselves as "Joshua Hart" with the Lane County Sheriff's Office, and even go as far as providing a fake badge number. In the reports received so far, the community members recognized the call as being fraudulent and discontinued the call before any money was lost.

**These calls are a scam**, and community members should hang up immediately and not engage with the caller.

The Lane County Sheriff's Office does not make phone calls to community members regarding warrants or missed jury duty. If you are the victim of a phone scam and have lost money as a result of the scam, please report it to your local law enforcement agency. If you did not lose any money, you do not need to call and report it. Below are some tips to decrease your chances of becoming a phone scam victim:

- Never provide personal information to callers, including your name, address, or banking information.
- Be aware of callers who are unprofessional, pushy, or use scare tactics such as threatening arrest if payment is not made.
- Callers asking for payment through wire transfer, cash cards such as green dot cards, or other non-trackable methods are signs of a scam.
- Do check the caller's information. If they claim to be from a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency, call the publicly listed phone number for that agency to verify the caller's authenticity, NOT the number that they provide you.
- Don't assume your caller ID is correct. Scammers have found ways to make your caller ID show names and numbers that they program in, not the real origin of the call.

Community members can also report fraud to the Oregon Attorney General's Consumer Hotline by calling 1-877-877-9392.

**Prepared by:** Sergeant Carrie Carver

**541-682-4179**

---

Byron M. Trapp, Sheriff  
Lane County Sheriff's Office  
125 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene OR 97401

Phone: 541-682-4150  
Fax: 541-682-4522  
[www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff](http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/Sheriff)  
Email – [sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us](mailto:sheriffs.office@co.lane.or.us)