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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

## **4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and Duval County Clerk's Office Warn the Public of Increased Jury Duty Scam Activity**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (**January 18, 2024**) – Due to a recent uptick in cases in our area and across the state of Florida, the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and the Duval County Clerk warn the public about fraudulent activity related to missed jury duty. Most often the scam caller pretends to be a law enforcement officer, state attorney, court official, or a deputy clerk saying that an individual failed to appear for jury duty or some other court obligation. Sometimes the callers are even sophisticated enough to use the name of an actual judge or public official. The scammer will advise that a fine was imposed and if it is not paid, a warrant will be issued for your arrest. To resolve the problem, they may ask for your bank account number or suggest purchasing a prepaid debit card or cryptocurrency. They may even ask for personal information such as your social security number. Please do not do this!

The Court, the Clerk's Office, or law enforcement officers do not call or email residents to request payment for missing jury duty or other court obligations. Any communication from our offices related to a legal matter will always be in writing. We will also never request payment via any sort of prepaid debit card or cryptocurrency. If unsure about a call you receive, you can always call the Clerk's Office at (904) 255-2000 or report the call to JSO's non-emergency line at (904) 630-0500.

“While this scam has unfortunately been around for years, the recent increase in cases around Florida made it a good time to remind the public that they should remain vigilant,” said Duval County Clerk Jody Phillips. “When in doubt, you can always contact our office directly and we would be glad to assist you.”

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