



**If someone calls claiming to be a deputy and demands money—
HANG UP. IT'S A SCAM!**

The Hampden County Sheriff's Office is urging the public to remain vigilant amid an unprecedented surge in phone scams. Victims have been tricked into believing they missed jury duty, have active warrants, or are part of a legal investigation—then pressured into making immediate payments.

IMPORTANT:

- **The Sheriff's Office will NEVER demand money over the phone or in person.**
- **We will NEVER threaten arrest or legal action by phone.**
- **Caller ID can be faked—do not trust what appears on your screen.**

What's Happening:

Scammers are impersonating law enforcement and telling victims to:

- Bring thousands of dollars in cash to the Sheriff's Civil Process Office at 95 Liberty Street in Springfield
- Pay through non-traditional means, such as Bitcoin ATMs

How the Scammers Work:

- **Caller ID Spoofing** makes the number look official
- **Fear & Urgency Tactics** are used to intimidate victims
- **Real Names** of deputies and staff are used to sound legitimate
- **AI Voice Cloning** may be used to impersonate family or officials
- **Auto-Dialers** can target thousands rapidly

Protect Yourself:

- Don't answer unknown numbers—let them go to voicemail
- Never give out personal or financial information
- Verify any legal claims by calling the Sheriff's Office or courts directly
- Warn friends, family, and especially seniors about these scams
- Report suspicious calls to your local police department

Final Word:

These scams aren't just stealing money—they're exploiting fear, trust, and technology to deceive.

If something feels off, it probably is.

Hang up.

Verify with the mentioned agency.

Report it to your local police department.