



## **PRESS RELEASE**

Case #14-505786

### **Deputies Warn of Warrant Scam**

April 18, 2014—The Washington County Sheriff's Office and local police agencies have received complaints from citizens concerning a warrant payment scam. The subject would ask for a payoff to avoid arresting the person that supposedly had the warrant.

The subject would call a citizen at random and identify himself as a Washington County Deputy Sheriff and that the citizen currently has a warrant for their arrest. The subject tells the victim that they will be arrested if they did not buy a Green Dot prepaid card in a specified amount and pay them to clear the warrant. Once the victim had the card, the subject would then arrange a location to meet them and obtain the card. The subject would threaten to come to their house and arrest them if they didn't pay.

Attached is a voicemail [audio recording](#) that was obtained when a deputy called the phone number back acting as the potential victim (use MP3 player). The subject's phone was disconnected shortly after the call.

No law enforcement agency will ever call demanding money to clear a warrant or for any other reason. If a person has a warrant for their arrest, a law enforcement officer is required to take them into custody and not take any type of payment to clear the warrant. We are advising anyone who receives a call like this to report it immediately.

Other local law enforcement agencies have received reports with similar circumstances. This scam is a variation of other scams where scammers will call or email with the promise of something in exchange for cash, Green Dot prepaid cards, money wires, or any other form of payment that involves urgent payment. Prepaid cards are as good as cash. Once a person has the secret code located on the back of the card, your money is lost and very difficult to trace.

The Sheriff's Office reminds citizens to never send money in any form to someone you don't personally know. These requests are a concern for law enforcement with individuals attempting to cheat you out of your money.

Investigators are seeking the public's help regarding this case or similar scam cases. If you have any information, or have recently received a solicitation that seemed suspicious, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 629-0111.