



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF INYO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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MEDIA CONTACTS:
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Scam Alert: Bench Warrant & Bank Fraud Calls

The Inyo County Sheriff's Office has received reports of two scams currently targeting residents.

Bench Warrant Scam: Callers claim to be law enforcement or "civil officers," provide a fake badge number, and state there is an active bench warrant. Victims are told to go to Walmart or another store to purchase gift cards or prepaid funds to pay it off. This is a scam. Law enforcement will never contact you to demand money or gift cards for a warrant.

Bank Fraud Scam: Victims are contacted by someone claiming to be from their bank's "fraud department." The caller states the victim will receive a text message and must send money through apps such as Affirm or Venmo to "clear" fraudulent transactions. This is also a scam. Legitimate financial institutions will never ask you to send money to resolve fraud.

Protect yourself:

- Hang up immediately if contacted.
- **Do not provide personal or financial information.**
- Verify directly with the Inyo County Superior Court at 760-872-3038 or info@inyocourt.ca.gov for **warrant** questions.
- Contact your financial institution using the number on the back of your card or a verified website.
- Report scams to ICSO at 760-878-0383.

Stay alert—fraudsters rely on urgency and fear. Take a moment to verify before you act.

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