

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**
www.ned.uscourts.gov

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July 5, 2012

WARNING ABOUT BOGUS TEXT MESSAGES REGARDING JURY SERVICE

Several members of the public have recently called the United States District Court Clerk's Office in Omaha to report receiving text messages from friends or family members alerting them that their names are listed on a Web site for failing to appear for jury duty in the Douglas County Court. The text states that failure to appear carries a \$500 fine or 30-day jail sentence. The text also provides a phone number that the "juror" is urged to call.

A caller to this number hears a recorded message from the "National Justice Center" stating that the caller failed to appear for jury service the preceding Monday and consequently is facing a \$500 fine or 30 days in jail. However, the call is revealed as a hoax near the end of the message or when the caller presses a number for further information. The caller is then urged to forward the text on to other "gullible" people.

The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska wants citizens to know that these texts, Web sites, and recorded messages are not from real court officials. Most federal court contact with a prospective juror will be through the U.S. Mail. Federal courts do not send prospective jurors threatening text messages or post on a Web site the names of jurors who failed to appear for service.

It is a crime for anyone to falsely represent himself or herself as a federal court official. Citizens receiving threatening texts or phone calls for failure to report to jury duty should never provide sensitive information (e.g., credit card numbers, bank account information, social security numbers, etc.) about themselves or family members. Citizens receiving these calls should report them to the Clerk of Court's office, 402-661-7350, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 402-493-8688.

For more information about federal jury service, please go to the court's Web site, <http://www.ned.uscourts.gov/juror>.