



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEWS ADVISORY
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Second Judicial District Court warns public about fraudulent messages targeting families of incarcerated individuals

ALBUQUERQUE – The Second Judicial District Court is warning the public about fraudulent messages that target families of incarcerated individuals. The fraudulent messages request money in exchange for a family member’s release from custody on an ankle monitor.

“These messages targeting vulnerable families are concerning,” said Chief Judge Marie Ward. “The Second Judicial District Court will never request payment of any kind in exchange for a person’s release from custody. Please do not respond to these messages or send any money.”

The recent fraudulent messages state that an incarcerated individual has been approved by a judge for a “second chance” program due to being a non-violent offender. The messages request payment of thousands of dollars for an ankle monitor through electronic payment platforms such as Zelle, Apple Pay, or Chime. The messages go on to promise that “the inmate will be released once payment is made” and that all fees will be refunded after the court case is completed. The messages are made to appear like a court order and include a court seal as well as a false judge’s signature.

“We encourage the public to be skeptical of any messages they receive claiming to be from a court,” Chief Judge Ward added. “If something doesn’t seem right, please contact the court to verify.”

The Second Judicial District Court reminds the community that all official correspondence from the Court is sent through the mail. Those with questions about communications that claim to be from the Second Judicial District Court should contact the court by phone at (505) 841-8400 or visit the court’s website at seconddistrict.nmcourts.gov for up-to-date information.

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