

NOTICE OF FRAUDULENT SCHEME

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts has been notified by the bankruptcy clerk in Utah of a fraudulent scheme that might be affecting victims throughout the country.

Over the past few weeks, the Utah bankruptcy court has had three different individuals appear at the clerk's office because they had been contacted by phone claiming that they owe money (\$150-\$450) to pay the debt of another person. The three individuals speak Spanish as their primary language.

In each instance, when the individuals refused to provide a credit card number to the caller, they were told that they must report to court for a hearing and that if they did not pay they would be arrested. In each case, the caller provided the Utah bankruptcy court address (including a room number) and a date/time for a fictitious hearing. In at least one case, the caller identified himself as a police officer.

In all cases, the caller provided the same toll-free number for the individuals to call if they decided to pay instead of reporting for the hearing.

Based on the information gathered to date, it is likely that this is occurring in other parts of the country, and the three Utah individuals represent a very small sample of the total number of individuals contacted. Although the individuals that came forward in Utah speak Spanish as their primary language, there is no indication that Spanish speaking individuals are the only group being targeted.

If you have knowledge of this occurring, please provide the names and contact information of the individuals and any additional details you have to one of the points of contact below.

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