NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 10, 2024 Contact: Cierra Hipszky Project Manager 307-777-3391 chipszky@courts.state.wy.us

Wyoming Judicial Branch Warns of Fraud Trend

Cheyenne, WY – The Wyoming Judicial Branch is warning the public of a trend where individuals are posing as law enforcement and court officials. Citizens are being told they have arrest warrants in place for failing to appear for jury duty or similar, made-up reasons, and are told to obtain cash and to deposit that cash in specific accounts in local CoinStar Bitcoin machines.

Calls, emails and texts which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply with a request for a cash deposit are <u>fraudulent</u> and are not connected with law enforcement or Wyoming state courts.

Wyoming courts will <u>never</u> require a citizen to pay money anywhere other than the local clerk of court's office. Local law enforcement will never ask you to deposit money as part of an investigation.

Be suspicious of any phone calls, emails or texts from "law enforcement" or "court officials" that:

- Ask for financial information; and/or
- Threaten jail for failure to comply with a demand for funds; and/or
- Demand payment of funds anywhere other than a clerk of court's office.

To report a scam, or if you are unsure whether something might be a scam, contact your local clerk of court's office, local law enforcement, or the Wyoming Judicial Branch.

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