



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMIT COUNTY, CO- The Sheriff's Office would like to make citizens aware of a fraud scheme occurring locally. A caller number using 'spoofing technology' has been making false claims that they are "Captain FitzSimons of the Summit County Sheriff's Department". The spoofer is making multiple calls to individuals with personal information about the person they are calling, such as full name and address. The spoofer also states that the person receiving the call has missed a court date and that there will be a warrant issued for their arrest. The number that the caller is providing to call back is also very similar to phone numbers that the Sheriff's Office uses, a byproduct of spoofing. Internet phone services have made phone spoofing available to criminals. There are websites that make the trick available to anybody.

There is little law enforcement can do — even when the scammers go so far as to impersonate the police themselves. It is technically possible, sometimes, to trace spoofed calls, but it's a challenge. The trail often goes overseas. So there is little local law enforcement can do to solve these crimes. Commander Jaime FitzSimons is employed by the Summit County Sheriff's Office as the Operations Commander. Commander FitzSimons is not making these calls. If there were a warrant issued for someone's arrest, law enforcement would come to your house to execute that warrant. This type of information would never be released over the telephone. Unfortunately, this type of fraud scheme dilutes people's trust or belief in who they're really speaking with. Please be mindful when dealing with suspicious phone calls. Do not give out personal information. Should you have any questions or doubts about phone calls you are receiving please call Summit County Dispatch at 970-668-8600.

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