

# Jury Duty Scams Continue to Rise!

Submitted by Kelvin H. Collins, President/CEO, Better Business Bureau

Serving the Fall Line Corridor, Inc. • BBB.org/central-georgia • Office: 478.742.9034 (Direct)

OFFICES: Macon: 277 M.L. King Jr. Blvd, Ste 201, Macon, GA 31201 • Augusta: 119 Davis Road, Ste 3-B, Augusta, GA 30907  
Columbus: 233 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 911-B, Columbus, GA 31901

**B**eing selected for jury duty is a civic responsibility – but scammers are exploiting that obligation to frighten consumers into sending money.

Across the country, reports of jury duty scams are increasing again. These scams typically begin with a phone call, voicemail, text, or email from someone claiming to represent the local police department, sheriff's office, district attorney, or county court.

## How the Scam Works

The caller claims you missed a jury summons and now face fines or even arrest. Some scammers say a warrant has already been issued. To “resolve” the issue, they demand immediate payment. Victims are often instructed to:

- Wire money
- Send funds through apps such as Cash App, Zelle, or Venmo
- Purchase prepaid debit cards or gift cards and provide the numbers
- Deposit cash into cryptocurrency ATMs
- Provide bank account or credit card information
- Share sensitive personal information like a Social Security number or date of birth

The scammer may sound official and convincing. Caller ID can even appear to show a legitimate local agency number – a tactic known as “spoofing.” Some scammers provide fake badge numbers or case numbers to sound more credible.

## Know the Red Flags – Keep these warning signs in mind:

- Courts almost always contact jurors by U.S. mail, not by phone, email, or text.
- Law enforcement will never demand immediate payment over the phone.
- Courts do not accept payment in gift cards, prepaid cards, cryptocurrency, or peer-to-peer payment apps.
- Threats of immediate arrest for failure to pay are a major red flag.
- Calls received outside normal business hours are suspicious.
- Pressure tactics that demand secrecy or urgency are common scam techniques.

## What To Do If You Receive a Call

- Do not provide any personal or financial information.
- Do not click on links in suspicious emails or texts.
- Hang up immediately.

- Look up your local court's official phone number on its website and call directly to verify.
- Report the scam attempt to the BBB's Scam Tracker at [www.BBB.org/scamtracker](http://www.BBB.org/scamtracker) and to your local law enforcement agency.

## Important Reminder

Jury duty scams are not limited to phone calls. Scammers also send threatening emails and text messages that may contain malicious links designed to steal personal information or install malware.

If you are concerned that you may have missed a jury summons or court date, contact your local court directly using contact information you independently verify.

Staying informed is the best defense against fraud.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kelvin Collins is president & CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the Fall Line Corridor, serving 77 counties in East Alabama, West Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Georgia, East Georgia, and Western South Carolina. This tips column is provided through the local BBB and the International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB). The Better Business Bureau sets standards for ethical business behavior, monitors compliance and helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses. Questions or complaints about a specific company or charity should be referred directly to the BBB at Phone: 1-800-763-4222, Website: [BBB.org](http://BBB.org) or E-mail: [info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org](mailto:info@centralgeorgia.bbb.org).**

## The World's First Hearing Aids With Touchscreen Controls.

No tiny buttons. No apps. No prescriptions.

Call **844-558-0278** to get your 45-day risk free trial.

- ✓ Revolutionary technology with touchscreen control.
- ✓ Hearing modes for any environment.
- ✓ Multiple models to choose from.
- ✓ Portable charging case.
- ✓ 48-hour battery life.
- ✓ UV cleaning.
- ✓ Background noise cancellation.
- ✓ 45-day risk free trial.
- ✓ Proudly located in the U.S.A.
- ✓ Free shipping direct to your door.
- ✓ 1.5 million+ happy customers.
- ✓ Lifetime support.

# Atom X



Audien Hearing