



August 21, 2014

Public Alert

E-MAIL SCAMS CLAIMING TO COME FROM CLERK

Dear Resident,

The Clerk's Office wishes to inform you of the most recent spike in fraudulent e-mails by entities impersonating Clerks' offices. This statewide scam comes in the form of **an e-mail referencing a missed court appearance** often signed by a fictitious county clerk. Unlike past scams, these e-mails attempt to retrieve personal data, forcefully, by **computer virus attached as a .zip file**. Malicious attachments contain a "Trojan Horse" virus that becomes active as soon as the file is unzipped.

We would like to remind residents that
court-related communications are sent through normal mail.

Jury summons and failure to appear notices are
never sent via phone or e-mail.

The Clerk's Office NEVER:

- calls or e-mails residents to request payment for missing jury duty
- requests payment via any sort of prepaid debit card
- calls or e-mails residents to verify jury duty attendance or
- issues arrest warrants for failure to report for jury duty.

The Clerk's Office Uses Regular Paper Mail To Issue:

- jury duty communications and
- several types of court notices.

A Circuit Judge would issue & sign any notice for failure to appear for jury duty.

We generally recommend that you do not open email attachments from unfamiliar sources and limit the personal information you provide by phone or email. If you are ever concerned about a phone call received from the Clerk's Office, you may call our switchboard at (386) 326-7600 and request transfer to an appropriate office.

Sincerely,

Tim Smith
Clerk of Court & Comptroller
Putnam County, Florida

Direct Inquiries To: Stephanie Gibbs - (386) 326-7613 - stephanie.gibbs@putnam-fl.com