



## **Brown County Sheriff's Office**

**Gordon Ellis, Sheriff**

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### Fraud Alert – December 11, 2023

The Brown County Sheriff's Office would like to alert the Citizens of Brown County to a specific fraud occurring in and around Brown County. The target of this fraud attempt tends to be elderly victims.

This fraud begins with a telephone call to the victim stating that the caller is a member of the Brown County Sheriff's Office. Often, the caller will use a specific name of an employee of the Sheriff's Office. The victim will then be advised that he/she missed jury duty and a warrant for their arrest will be issued.

This fraud will continue with the victim being required to provide gift cards, bank account information, cash wire transfers or checks to stop the issuance of a warrant.

This fraud can be recognized quickly if any of the following requests are made by the person or persons informing the victim that a warrant is to be issued for their arrest.

- The telephone number used is blocked or does not come back as a telephone number assigned to the Brown County Sheriff's Office.
- The victim is required to send pre-paid gift cards or money prior to any action being taken regarding the issuance of the referenced warrant.
- The victim is never required to go to the Sheriff's Office to make transfer of the gift cards or money.

The Brown County Sheriff's Office will never contact a Citizen by telephone and request funds or payment of any type. Should a Citizen receive a telephone call of the nature described, you should always tell the caller that you are going to contact the Brown County Sheriff's Office before taking any other action.

Should any Citizen of Brown County be contacted by anyone who is requesting funds or any other item of value on behalf of the Brown County Sheriff's Office, contact your local law enforcement agency and report it immediately. Any Citizen who has a question or thinks a relative may be the victim of a scam can contact the Brown County Sheriff's Office and request to speak with a detective.

Sheriff Gordon Ellis  
Brown County Sheriff's Office