

Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

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# NEWS RELEASE: COVID-19

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 6, 2020**

## **COURT ADVISES THE PUBLIC TO BE AWARE OF CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 SCAMS**

The COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in a surge of phishing scams and other cyber attacks. The Court is advising the public to exercise caution when opening any COVID-19 or pandemic-themed email or when responding to calls from anyone alleging to offer assistance.

Examples include emails appearing to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, or other reputable authorities. Fake emails (also known as spoofs) generally purport to offer information and updates on the unfolding crisis from trusted authorities or companies to trick users to click links and attachments to malicious content.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, most court hearings, except those considered essential or time-sensitive, have been continued and jurors are not being asked to report for jury service at this time.

Some of these fake electronic communications may contain an attachment or a link that installs a virus or other spyware on the computer or mobile device. Other communications, for example a telephone call, make fraudulent demands to pay a fine or provide personal information, such as a Social Security number.

The Court sometimes makes automated phone calls reminding people of a court appearance or jury service, but will not demand any personal information, payment or donations.

The Court uses a vendor to collect on certain delinquent fees and fines. To confirm an inquiry about delinquent court-ordered debt, you can call GC Services at 1-800-352-3778, or visit their website: <https://courtpay.gcserv.com>

Anyone with questions about a suspicious communication that appears to be from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County should contact the Court. Phone numbers and additional information regarding the Court's response to the pandemic can be found on the Court's [website](#).

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