## OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Sheriff's Office Investigating Phone Scam**

[Lancaster, Ohio, January 31, 2018] The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is warning the public of a phone scam regarding debt collection involving the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts and Judge David Trimmer.

Earlier this week, the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts Office began to receive phone calls from concerned citizens advising that they have received calls from "Sgt. Jones" or "Sgt. Smith" with "Fairfield County Court Services" claiming that he is collecting money for debt owed to Fairfield County and that there is a warrant out for the person's arrest. The recipients are told they need to post bond through "National Bonding Company" and given a toll free number to call.

"Although these types of calls are more frequent, residents should use caution whenever someone calls to solicit money for any debts they are not familiar to owing. Our Detectives have been investigating these calls since the first complaint was received and are working to find those responsible." stated Sheriff Dave Phalen. The calls have been coming from a 740 area code with a 277 prefix phone number out of Lancaster, Ohio.

Sheriff Phalen wants to remind residents to be alert whenever unsolicited calls are received asking for payments of any type. Recipients of these types of calls are asked to obtain as much information about the caller and organization as possible and to report any such activity to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office at 740-652-7911.

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