



*Office of the District Court Executive*

COLLEEN MCMAHON  
*Chief Judge*

EDWARD A. FRIEDLAND  
*District Court Executive*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

**SDNY WARNS ABOUT FRAUDULENT CALLER SCHEME**

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York is warning individuals about an ongoing caller-ID “spoofing” scheme misusing District Court numbers, including the Clerk’s Office main phone number, 212-805-0136, and other similar “212-805-” numbers.

“Spoofing” occurs when someone falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display. It is often done in an effort to get you to provide personal information so the scammer can steal your identity. Sometimes it is used in an effort to extort money. Specifically, the Court has received reports that calls are being made by individuals who are falsely representing themselves as an employee of the Court, and then state that the targeted individual’s grandchild or grandchildren were in a car accident and as a result, arrested. The person is then asked to send money to get a grandchild or grandchildren out of jail.

This is a scam; recipients should not engage with these calls or provide any personal information. The Court does not call to perform financial transactions of any kind over the telephone.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) advises caution when responding to any request for Personally Identifiable Information (PII). The FCC recommends:

- Never give out personal information such as Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, usernames, passwords or other identifying information.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency seeking personal information, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request.
- Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.

For more information, go to: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id>