

# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts



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## Prepaid Debit Card Scam Uses Court Information

PHOENIX – Scams are common, and with advancing technology, it is getting easier for victims to be fooled by real-looking documents and scare tactics. One of the latest scams uses court logos and information available from public records to scam victims out of their money.

In the example below, the scammer contacted an individual by email, using an actual court official's name and address and telling the victim that an "appearance bond" had to be paid by prepaid debit card. No case number or court date or other explanation was included on the bogus document. The document included the information for different courts on one document, which members of the public might not realize.

The document states a specific form of payment as if the victim has a requirement and no alternatives. In addition to the document, the scammer's email directed the victim to email pictures of the front and back of the cards before mailing them to the "court." The pictures of the prepaid cards gave the scammer everything needed to use the funds immediately, allowing the now-worthless cards to be mailed to an actual court address, giving false credibility to the scam.

Impersonating a court official or other public servant is a crime, in addition to the fraud of the scam. Individuals who are targeted by these scams can report them to law enforcement. Unfortunately for the victims who purchase prepaid cards in response to these scams, it is nearly impossible to stop payment or recover the funds before used by the scammers.

If you receive a notice or message from a court in Arizona, there are several ways to confirm the information. Many courts can be contacted by telephone, email, or in person. A list of court information is online at <https://www.azcourts.gov/AZ-Courts/AZ-Courts-Locator>. Many courts' dockets, or the list of documents filed into the case, are posted online at <https://apps.supremecourt.az.gov/publicaccess/> or through the eAccess records system at <https://www.azcourts.gov/eaccess/>.



# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS

For The District Of Arizona  
APPEARANCE BOND



Seal of an Arizona Superior Court

United States of America  
v.  
**Debra [REDACTED]**  
Defendant

- ) Failure to Appear (O.C.A.Z. 45-11-9.1)
- ) Contempt of Court (O.C.A.Z. 45-11-9.1b)
- )
- )
- )

Seal of the Arizona Supreme Court

### Defendant's Agreement



No Case Number, Oddly Placed, Undated Orange Stamp

I, **Debra [REDACTED], Maricopa, AZ** defendant, agree to follow every order of this court or any court that considers this case, and I further agree that this bond may be forfeited if I fail

- to appear for court proceedings;
- if convicted, to surrender to serve a sentence that the court may impose or
- to comply with all conditions set forth in the Order Setting Conditions of Release



"Sealed" Stamp Could Encourage Victim Not to Ask Questions

### Type of Bond

- (1) This is a personal recognizance bond.
- (2) This is an unsecured bond of \$
- (3) This is a secured bond of \$ 911.70, secured by **ONE VANILLA**
- (a) \$ **911.70**, in cash deposited with the court.
- (b) the agreement of the defendant and each surety to forfeit the following cash or property  
*(describe the cash or other property including claims on it such as a lein, mortgage, or loan, and attach proof of ownership and value).*
- ONE VANILLA PRE-PAID DEBIT** *(ONE VANILLA financial cards may be purchased at, WAL-MART Dollar General, Fred's, Office Depot, Kroger, CVS, Rite-Aid, retail locations and have a purchase price of \$5.95. All bonding voucher must be verified and registered with the U.S. Marshals Service thru mobile alleviation. Failure to do so will result in a non-compliance for said named above.*

SCAM Language

SCAM Language

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### Forfeiture or Release of the Bond

Forfeiture of the Bond. This appearance bond may be forfeited if the defendant does not comply with the above agreement. The court may immediately order the amount of the bond surrendered to the United States, including the security for the bond, if the defendant does not comply with the agreement. At the request of the United States, the court may order a judgement of forfeiture against the defendant and each surety for the entire amount of the bond, including interest and costs.

Date: 08-21-2019

[REDACTED]  
Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Approved

Date: 08-25-2019

[REDACTED]