



Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

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Media Contact: Latisha Marshall
Email: media@vprj.org

VPRJ ANNOUNCES PHONE SCAM TARGETING INMATE FAMILIES

Williamsburg, Virginia – The Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail (VPRJ) is alerting the public to fraudulent phone scams targeting family members of individuals currently in VPRJ custody.

VPRJ has received several reports that scammers are posing as Officers of the jail or affiliated agencies and are directly contacting families to solicit money under false pretenses. These individuals request payment directly and falsely claim they can facilitate or expedite inmate participation in programs such as Home Electronic Monitoring (HEI), Work Release, or to influence bond-related motions.

Superintendent, Col. Roy Witham stated, “VPRJ does not solicit or accept payments over the phone for any release options or bond-related matter – under any circumstance. Any family member of someone committed to VPRJ that receives this type of phone call should be on alert and consider this request for money to affect a release of a person from custody fraudulent.” Col. Witham further stated, “If friends and family of persons committed to VPRJ have questions regarding bond amounts or wish to verify a booking status, they are encouraged to contact the VPRJ Booking desk directly.” Family and friends of incarcerated individuals who receive a call of this nature are strongly advised not to send money or share any personal or financial information with unknown callers. VPRJ suggests that if you are contacted directly from an unknown party and money is requested for a person’s release, document the caller’s phone number and any relevant details, and report the incident to your local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where you reside.

The Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail and its Investigators have documented several claims of people contacted by this scam, some of whom have provided payment. All of these claims have been reported to our local law enforcement partners. No additional information is available at this time.