



*Office of Paula S. O'Neil  
Clerk & Comptroller  
Pasco County, Florida*

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*For Immediate Release – September 3, 2014*

**JURY SERVICE FRAUD SCHEME – PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D., would like to inform Pasco County citizens of the latest fraud scheme so that they may protect themselves from theft. Citizens are receiving phone calls and emails from scammers posing as trusted public officials threatening contempt of court for failure to appear for jury service.

Scammers pressure recipients with the threat of fines and jail time to coerce citizens in providing confidential information, potentially leading to identity theft. A new type of email scam was recently reported. Unlike past scams, these emails attempt to retrieve personal data forcefully, by a computer virus attached as a .zip file. These malicious attachments contain a *Trojan Horse* virus that becomes active as soon as the file is unzipped.

**Be advised: Court-related communications are sent through regular mail. Jury summonses and failure to appear notices are never sent via email.**

Tips to protect yourself:

- The Clerk & Comptroller's Office does not call or email citizens to request payment for missing jury service.
- The Clerk & Comptroller's Office does not call or email citizens to verify information related to jury service.
- If a citizen misses jury service, the court may issue a failure to appear notice that is mailed.
- Arrest warrants are not usually issued for failure to report for jury service.
- Do not open an email attachment or provide personal information from any unfamiliar source.

If you receive any suspicious or unsolicited communication about jury service, contact the Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller's Office at 1(800) 368-2411 x2200.

*The Florida Constitution established a Clerk & Comptroller as an elected public trustee in 1838 and established at the county level a system of checks and balances to serve and protect the interests of the public. The Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, Paula S. O'Neil, Ph.D., is an elected Constitutional Officer who, under Florida Statutes, provides information management, record keeping, and financial management to the Circuit Court, County Court, and County Government. The Mission Statement of the Office is "We serve with integrity, professionalism, and compassion as we safeguard our customers' interests."*