



# JULIA R. BATES

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LUCAS COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WARNS OF PHONE SCAM**

**TOLEDO, Ohio** – The Lucas County Prosecutor's Office is warning residents in Lucas County and surrounding counties about a phone scam involving callers who falsely claim to represent the office.

In the scam, callers tell residents they failed to appear in court and claim a notice was sent to the individual's home address. In some cases, the caller may reference the resident by name and provide an address in an attempt to appear legitimate.

"While technology plays a helpful role in everyday life, some individuals use it to take advantage of others and now they are falsely representing our office," Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney Julia R. Bates said. "Our office does not call residents to ask why they did not appear in court."

The Lucas County Prosecutor's Office may make phone calls related to criminal cases or civil matters involving Lucas County entities. Legitimate calls will reference a specific case and include a case number, the name of the defendant or the name of the assigned assistant prosecutor.

"If you receive a call claiming to be from our office and are unsure whether it is legitimate, politely hang up and contact our office directly at 419-213-4700 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, to verify the call," Bates said.

When it comes to scams in general, do not provide personal or financial information over the phone and do not send money, gift cards or payments in response to an unsolicited call. Hang up if a caller claims you missed a court date or demands immediate action and report suspected scam calls to the law enforcement agency where you live.

#### **About the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office**

The Lucas County Prosecutor's Office pursues justice, safeguards the community and advocates for victims. The office balances accountability with individual rights, partnering with law enforcement to ensure public safety and fair governance. We are committed to integrity, outreach and justice for all.

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