

English Version

COMMUNITY SCAM ALERT – PRETRIAL SERVICES / ELECTRONIC MONITORING SCAM

We want to alert our community about a scam involving an individual falsely claiming to represent local law enforcement or the **Probation/Pretrial Services Program**.

A Community member reported receiving a call from an individual claiming they can help get a loved one released from jail and placed on **an electronic ankle monitor** in exchange for thousands of dollars. Scammers may request payment through Cash App, Apple Pay, Apple gift cards, Visa gift cards, or other forms of immediate payment.

THIS IS A SCAM.

Please remember:

- Pretrial Services does not charge individuals or their families a fee for participation in the program or electronic monitoring.
- Pretrial Services will not demand payment through gift cards, Cash App, Apple Pay, or similar payment methods to arrange someone's release from custody.
- Placement on Pretrial Services and electronic monitoring is determined through the court and established pretrial release procedures, it cannot be purchased or arranged by paying someone over the phone.
- Scammers may use the names, ranks, or titles of actual law enforcement personnel to make their calls appear legitimate.
- If you receive a suspicious call regarding a loved one in custody, do not send money or purchase gift cards. Stop and independently verify the information through official channels.

Please share this information with family and friends, especially anyone who may have a loved one in custody.

For questions, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation/Pretrial Services Program at (831) 454-2846.