

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 03/11/2024

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office has received several telephone calls from members of the public who have been contacted by a person posing as a Benton County deputy.

On March 11th, 2024, the Benton County Sheriff's Office began receiving telephone calls from members of the public advising that a person claiming to be Sergeant Brown from the Benton County Sheriff's Office had contacted them. This person claimed that the victims had pending civil process papers to be served. In each case reported to us, the person claiming to be Sgt. Brown asked the victim questions seeking personal information such as the subject's name, date of birth, and email address. Each of the victims who contacted our office reported realizing this was a scam call early in the interaction and ending contact with the scammer before any financial information was compromised.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office does not employ a Sgt. Brown and anyone receiving a telephone call from someone claiming to be Sgt. Brown should hang up on the caller and contact the Benton County Sheriff's Office at 320-968-7201. Criminals regularly pose as government officials, including members of law enforcement, in attempts to obtain money or banking information from victims. The Benton County Sheriff's Office will never ask for banking information or payments of any kind over the telephone.

Members of the public should always be suspicious when receiving unexpected contact, regardless of who the person claims to be. Never disclose personal information like a social security number or banking information to a person who contacts you unexpectedly. If you believe that an unexpected contact could be coming from a legitimate source, find a telephone number to call the company or agency back on your own and make a call to verify if the contact you received was legitimate. A person calling you with a legitimate concern will be willing to accommodate your effort to ensure they are truly who they claim to be.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff