



Fake U.S. Marshal Scam: A Cautionary Tale

Last week, a client called Andrews Myers seeking immediate guidance. He was on the line with callers claiming to be U.S. Marshals. They told him he had failed to appear before a federal grand jury after being served a summons. Though this was news to our client, the caller continued: "Judge George Hanks of the *Northern* District of Texas issued a Show Cause Order requiring you to proceed directly to the Federal Courthouse on Rusk." The caller also insisted that our client "maintain contact" with the alleged Marshals while traveling to the courthouse.

This was a hoax. No Show Cause Order existed, and no grand jury appearance was ever missed. But the callers were convincing: they named an actual federal judge, George Hanks of the *Southern* District of Texas, and actual U.S. Marshals. This scam is not isolated. Similar "maintain contact" schemes have recently appeared nationwide. Scammers have also impersonated other federal officials, including OSHA inspectors.

Andrews Myers quickly confirmed the scam through routine outreach to professional contacts in the Southern District of Texas. We advised the client to stand down. We do not know the scammers' end game, but we are relieved our client never had to find out.

When someone claims to represent a government agency contacts you, verify the contact quickly. Clients must comply with legitimate governmental authority but should remain alert to potential scams.

If a purported federal authority contacts you, reach out to Andrews Myers immediately. We can verify the source and advise whether you must comply or whether you are dealing with a scammer.

Stay alert, stay vigilant, and call us whenever you need immediate assistance.

For further information on these developments, please contact [Tony Stergio](#) and [Elliot Kudisch](#).