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**Sheriff Lou Vallario**  
**Garfield County, Colorado**

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: April 9, 2026  
Time: 2:30 p.m.

Title: Phone Scam Impersonating Law Enforcement

**IMPORTANT:** Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.

GARFIELD COUNTY, CO. –

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office is alerting the public to an increase in fraudulent phone calls involving individuals impersonating members of our agency. Multiple residents have reported receiving calls from individuals claiming to be a Sergeant with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office or GarCo Sheriff, stating that the recipient must pay or "settle" a civil debt on behalf of the federal government.

These calls are fraudulent.

We want to make it clear:

Deputies do not handle or settle any type of debt — federal, civil, or otherwise

Deputies do not collect money from the public

Deputies will never call individuals to demand payment

Any call requesting payment while claiming to be from law enforcement should be considered a scam.

Scammers may use the names of real deputies or employees and may attempt to create a sense of urgency to pressure victims into making payments, often through gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

Residents are encouraged to:

Hang up immediately if they receive such a call

Never provide personal, financial, or identifying information

Contact the Garfield County Sheriff directly using a verified phone number

Report the incident to local law enforcement

Public awareness is critical in preventing fraud. Community members are encouraged to share this information.

For more information or to report a scam, please contact Garfield County Emergency Communications

Authority [non-emergency number] at 970-625-8095 or visit Federal Trade Commission at [FTC.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams) to learn more.

**No additional information will be released**

*The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people through professional, ethical and compassionate conduct.*

