



Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail

For Immediate Release
Date: October 20, 2026

Media Contact: Latisha Marshall
Email: media@vprj.org

VPRJ ANNOUNCES PHONE SCAM TARGETING INMATE FAMILIES

UPDATE TO PRESS RELEASE ISSUED APRIL 17, 2026

Williamsburg, Virginia – This is an update to the Press Release issued by Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail (VPRJ) on April 17, 2026, alerting the public to fraudulent phone scams targeting family members of individuals currently in VPRJ custody. Since that date, VPRJ has reported nine (9) individuals who have allegedly been defrauded to the James City County Police Department.

VPRJ has received several reports that scammers are posing as Officers of the jail or affiliated agencies and are directly contacting families to solicit money under false pretenses. These individuals request payment directly and falsely claim they can facilitate or expedite inmate participation in programs such as Home Electronic Monitoring (HEI), Work Release, or to influence bond-related motions.

Superintendent, Col. Roy Witham stated, “VPRJ does not solicit or accept payments over the phone for any release options or bond-related matter – under any circumstance. Any family member of someone committed to VPRJ that receives this type of phone call should be on alert and consider this request for money to affect a release of a person from custody fraudulent.” Col. Witham further stated, “If friends and family of persons committed to VPRJ have questions regarding bond amounts or wish to verify a booking status, they are encouraged to contact the VPRJ Booking desk directly.” Family and friends of incarcerated individuals who receive a call of this nature are strongly advised not to send money or share any personal or financial information with unknown callers. VPRJ suggests that if you are contacted directly from an unknown party and money is requested for a person’s release, document the caller’s phone number and any relevant details, and report the incident to your local law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction where you reside.

The Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail and its Investigators will continue to document and report fraudulent claims made by individuals contacted by the scammers. No additional information is available at this time.