

STATE OF MARYLAND



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR.  
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD  
LT. GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER  
DISTRICT ONE – BALTIMORE CITY  
201 SAINT PAUL STREET, 5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202**

*Ph. (410) 333-4900  
Fax (410) 333-4653  
Toll Free: 1 (877) 430-5187*

**PAUL B. DeWOLFE**  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**BECKY FELDMAN**  
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

**KIRSTEN DOWNS**  
DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDER

**SCAM ALERT: DO NOT WIRE MONEY OVERSEAS FOR A  
BALTIMORE BAIL**

The Maryland Office of the Public Defender has received reports of individuals from around the country receiving fraudulent calls asking for money allegedly to post bail for a relative (son, grandson, etc.) arrested in Baltimore. The callers have typically claimed that the relative was visiting Baltimore when they got arrested, that they are represented by an attorney at Baltimore's Legal Aid, and that an international the bond company will bail the relative out if money is wired to them overseas (typically the Dominican Republic).

These phone calls are fraudulent.

Maryland Legal Aid provides free legal assistance regarding civil matters in Baltimore. It does not represent people in criminal cases (where bail would be imposed). A bond company must be registered in Maryland and will not require that funds be wired internationally.

If you receive a call asking you to wire money for a bail in Baltimore (or anywhere in Maryland), verify that the person has been arrested and is being held on bail. You can look up the name on the Judiciary Casesearch website: <http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch/>. This is a court website and, if someone has recently been charged with a crime, an active case with a recent filing date should be listed.

If you think you may have received a fraudulent call, contact the Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Hotline: 410-528-8662 or toll-free 888-743-0023.

For more information, contact Andrew Northrup, OPD Felony Trial Chief for Baltimore City, [anorthrup@opd.state.md.us](mailto:anorthrup@opd.state.md.us) ; 410-333-4653 ext. 322.