

Sheriff: Scam calls targeting offenders

(KNZA)--Registered offenders in Brown County are being targeted by scammers; and due to the methods used, the Attorney General- office has been contacted for assistance.

That's the message relayed Friday in a release from Brown County Sheriff John Merchant, who says at least six registered offenders have made complaints to his office that they have been notified by telephone and told they need to come to the Sheriffs Office to provide a DNA sample. The targeted offender is told to keep in contact with the caller and is threatened with a \$1,000 fine for late test kits.

In another reported incident, Merchant says he was contacted by an offender who complained that his grandmother had received a phone call claiming he, the offender and grandson, was out of compliance.

According to Merchant, the phone number shown on caller ID is 785-380-7717, and when called, the person who answers claims to represent the Brown County Sheriffs Office.

Merchant, in the release, states that the scam is currently being investigated by his office, and related information is being forwarded to the Kansas Attorney Generals Office for assistance with the probe.

Merchant reminds all offenders that his office does not conduct business in such a way, and those with questions should call his office.

Many Signals Communication