

Citizens beware of SCAM which targets family members of incarcerated individuals in Mohave County. The SCAM includes a fake call from someone claiming to be a county employee offering a new program that allows the inmate to be released from custody with an ankle monitor and curfew while promising to also provide rehab, housing and employment. In at least three (3) scams, the caller claims to be “Captain Don Bischoff.” The criminal(s) committing the scam then request payment of hundreds of dollars as a fully refundable deposit and a monthly ankle monitoring fee. In some cases the victims of these scams have lost \$800 - \$1700. Any person who receives such a call should proceed with extreme caution as these types of fees are only paid through the court and are not solicited over the phone. Any victim of this scam should immediately call local law enforcement.

The Mohave County Attorney’s Office has a Diversion Program with many diversion options for certain first-time offenders and/or defendants with low-level and/or old convictions. The Program is designed to promote public safety; reduce recidivism; assist willing participants improve their lives, avoid convictions on their criminal records, make restitution to victims; and reduce the drain of public funds and taxpayer resources on criminal activity. However, these are not pay-to-play programs and if the call sounds too-good-to-be-true or promises an inmate’s release outside of a judge issuing a court order, you should proceed with extreme caution. The diversion options include the following: deferred-entry-of-guilt (DEOG) pleas; seriously-mentally-ill (SMI) pleas; Veteran’s treatment court pleas; deferred prosecution stipulations; and Health & Wellness Court (HAWC) pleas. **Any fees associated with these options and the Program are payable through the court.**

Don Bischoff is a Diversion Specialist with the MCAO and will never call and solicit payment over the phone. Additionally, the Mohave County Sheriff’s Office does have a Reach Out re-entry program which connects inmates with community resources upon release. The MCSO’s phone number is (928)753-0753. Many incarcerated persons are represented by an attorney and family members who receive such a call may want to try to speak with their loved one’s attorney about such calls.

The MCAO takes these types of crimes very serious and hopes that victims will come forward and assist law enforcement in capturing these criminals. Those perpetuating such crimes in Mohave County should anticipate being prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and will not be offered any diversion option!

The Mohave County Attorney’s Office phone number is (928)753-0719.