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SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ISSUES STATEMENT ON IMMIGRATION LAWYER SCAMS

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego City Attorney's Office is warning members of the public to be cautious of individuals who claim to be attorneys or government representatives offering legal or immigration assistance.

The San Diego City Attorney's Office does not provide legal services to individuals, including immigration legal services. We will never request payment or sensitive personal information by phone, text, social media, or private messaging platforms like WhatsApp.

If someone claiming to be affiliated with our Office contacts you offering legal services, please do not engage with them. Save any screenshots, phone numbers, or emails you received and report the incident to the State Bar of California (Unauthorized Practice of Law/Impersonation) and local law enforcement. If you share those details with our office, we will also document the scam.

Official communications can be confirmed by contacting the San Diego City Attorney's Office directly through our website or main phone line. ☎

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Statement from City Attorney Heather Ferbert:

"Impersonating an attorney to take advantage of someone in immigration detention is deplorable and unlawful. The San Diego City Attorney's Office does not provide direct legal assistance to individuals, nor do we provide legal services outside of California. We consistently report such incidents to the appropriate authorities."

Suspected scams should be reported to local law enforcement and the appropriate consumer protection agencies. You can protect yourself by confirming credentials, avoiding unsolicited offers of legal help, and never sending payment to unverified individuals.

If you are the victim of a scam involving impersonating a lawyer:

- Report to the California Department of Justice: ☎ www.oag.ca.gov/report
- Get help from a legitimate legal aid organization: www.lawhelpca.org
- Tools to help avoid immigration scams: www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams

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