

2007 Reported Fraud & Scams

"Jury Duty Scam" (Dec. 26th 2007)

The following e-mail was forwarded from the U.S Dept. of Education - State Monitoring Program Improvement Division and this scam has reportedly been verified by the FBI. Please see the below:

"This has been verified by the FBI (their link is also included below). It is spreading fast so be prepared should you get this call. Please warn the seniors in your family about this as they are being targeted. Most of us take those summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of fraud has surfaced. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Give out this information and your identity has just been stolen. The fraud has been reported so far in 11 states, including California, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Colorado. This (swindle) is particularly insidious because they are intimidation over the phone to try to bully people into giving information by pretending they are with the court system. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their websites, warning consumers about the fraud. More information on this alert can be found at:

http://www.fbi.gov/page2/june06/jury_scams060206.htm and/or
<http://www.snopes.com.crime/fraud/juryduty.asp> "

"Phishing 'On-line Banking' Scam with REGIONS Bank" (Dec. 21st 2007)

The following e-mail was sent to a State Employee's work e-mail address. REGIONS Bank has already been notified of the phishing scam e-mail and responded with the following comments:

- REGIONS does not have any branches in the state of Connecticut.
- If you provided any information to the e-mail or to the link in the e-mail, please call us immediately at 1-800-REGIONS.
- If you clicked on a link in the e-mail, please have your computer scanned for potentially harmful software and/or viruses.
- If you simply forwarded us the e-mail and took no further action, the e-mail should be deleted.

Please read the below e-mail:



Dear Customer,

We recently upgraded our Online Service to provide a good services for all our Online Banking Users in order not to be experiencing any difficulties when signing to your Online Account. due to this upgrade we sincerely call your attention to follow below link and reconfirm your online account details. Failure to confirm the online banking details will suspend you from accessing your account online.

"address altered for consumer protection regions.com/onlinebanking/verification"

We use the latest security measures to ensure that your online banking experience is safe and secure. The administration asks you to accept our apologies for the inconveniences caused and expresses gratitude for cooperation.

Thank you for banking with us.

Regions Net Online Banking

This is an automatic message. Please do not reply.

"Caught in Canada - Send \$ Please" (Dec. 16th 2007)

The following story was reported in the [Connecticut Post](#).

"Police are investigating a scam in which a man called an elderly Fairfield woman on Tuesday, claimed to be her grandson and asked her to wire him money so he could leave Canada. Police said the man claimed to have been caught poaching in Canada and needed \$3,500 to leave the country. He asked the woman to wire him money from a Wal-Mart store and she did, police said. But when the man called back to get a security code to retrieve the money, the woman thought he no longer sounded like her grandson and did not give it to him. The woman later confirmed that her grandson was not the caller, police said."

"\$49.99 Checking Account Debit Scam" (Dec. 5th 2007)

The following story was reported by CT's own Jocelyn Watrous at the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

The daughter of a 96 year old woman who resides in a nursing home called, indicating that \$49.99 was mysteriously debited from her mom's checking account on November 14th. The daughter contacted the bank and learned that the money went to an outfit called "Life-T." There was a phone number listed on the debit so the daughter and bank person together called the number: 866-504-7305. They reached a person named Adam. He said that the deduction was for drug insurance coverage and that the mother had enrolled herself on-line. The daughter says this is preposterous, her mother, though quite sharp, barely knows what a computer looks like, let alone how to use one! (The bank removed the charge from the account.)

As there is no prescription drug plan called LifeT in Connecticut, she googled LifeT - a possible site match indicated a "free" credit report. When she googled the telephone number, however, there were a lot of complaints posted reporting the same mysterious \$49.99 withdrawal from their bank account. It is clearly a scam across many states in the country. The mystery here is how this outfit got the bank's routing number and her checking account number. Please monitor your checking account debits.

"Seniors Center" SCAM Alert (Oct. 11th 2007)

Seniors in several states are receiving fundraising letters indicating The Seniors Center is in danger of running out of money and requesting donations - \$20 and \$35 for example. In some instances, a self-addressed stamped return envelope is included for which the senior was to include a check for \$35. The address is: The Seniors Center, P.O. Box 912, Frederick, MD 21705. In Missouri, the Attorney General issued a press release indicating that many seniors had thought that their own senior center was in danger of closing - which is not the case. "The Seniors Center" is a registered fundraiser in their state, but does not otherwise conduct any business and NO funds contributed will go to local senior centers. A google of "Seniors Center" brought up the following website:

<http://www.theseniorscenter.com/> --apparently a lobbying organization that preys on older adults using emotional issues to get money.

IRS Tax Refund Notification E-mail (Oct. 10th 2007)

Please be aware of the following internet scam that has a very official looking appearance - but is stemming from a private web address and not the IRS.



"After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of **\$268.32**. Please submit the tax refund request and allow us 2-3 days in order to process it.

A refund can be delayed for a variety of reasons. For example submitting invalid records or applying after the deadline.

To access the form for your tax refund, please [click here](#).

Note: For security reasons, we will record your ip-address, the date and time. Deliberate wrong inputs are criminally pursued and indicated.

Regards,
Internal Revenue Service

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Union Consumer Benefits Scam

A senior in the North Central Area Agency on Aging region reported to CHOICES Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and the Department of Insurance that she received a call yesterday (Wednesday, Sept. 12th 2007) from a "Kathryn Foster" purportedly from "Union Consumer Benefits" 866-606-1967 - about a New Senior Medicare Card. The woman was asking for the beneficiary's bank information and Medicare information, which the beneficiary did not provide. the woman said she needed a call back by 4pm today. Be aware - this is a scam. Other out of state law enforcement sources have reported this scenario as well. Please report any calls received to CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 as well as your local law enforcement agency.