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PUBLIC NOTICE

Official Advisory on Phishing Scams

Subject: How to Protect Yourself from Phishing Scams

From: Consumer Protection Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
Department of Legal Affairs

To: General Public

This is an official advisory from the Consumer Protection Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General. We are writing to inform you about the ongoing risk of phishing scams and to provide you with important information to help you protect your personal and financial data.

Phishing is a fraudulent practice where scammers impersonate legitimate organizations via e-mail, text, or phone to mislead or trick you into revealing sensitive information like passwords, social security numbers, and/or bank details.

Key Steps for Protection:

- **Verify the Source:** Scrutinize the sender's e-mail address or phone number. Legitimate agencies and companies use official domains.
- **Recognize Pressure Tactics:** Be extremely cautious of messages creating a false sense of urgency, threatening consequences, or offering unexpected rewards.
- **Do Not Click Directly:** Never click on links or open attachments from unsolicited or suspicious messages. Navigate to websites directly by typing the official URL or website address into your browser.
- **Guard Your Information:** No government agency or reputable business will ever unexpectedly e-mail or call to demand sensitive personal information or payment.

If You Suspect a Phishing Attempt:

1. **Do Not Respond.**
2. **Do Not Click Any Links or Download Attachments.**
3. **Report It:** Forward the suspicious e-mail to your local IT support staff or contact the Department of Homeland Security at dhsict@asdhs.as.gov or at (684) 699-3800 Ext. 1018 for more information. Also, report it to the organization being impersonated.
4. **Delete the Message.**

Your Rights & Resources:

As a consumer, you have the right to be informed and protected from deceptive practices. For more information on your rights or to file a formal complaint, please visit our official website at www.legalaffairs.as.gov.

Staying informed is your first line of defense.

**Consumer Protection Bureau
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