



“Phishing” to Steal Your Identity

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Have you ever seen an email that looked suspicious or one that asked for personal information?

Each year, thousands of unsuspecting victims report that they have had online theft attempts on their money or personal information. The numbers continue to grow as more and more senior citizens connect to computers and smart devices.

Any message that asks you to click on a link to update or enter your personal information is a phishing expedition and more than likely an attempt to scam you. A phishing message looks and sounds legitimate by asking you to verify personal information. The message may even create a sense of urgency by saying your account has been involved in fraudulent activity.

Don't be fooled. If in the event you do receive a suspicious call, text or email, write down as much information as you can about the interaction and then file a police report. Follow up with a phone call to Florida's Fraud Hotline at 1.866.9.NO.SCAM and the Federal Trade Commission at 1.877.ID.THEFT.

Then, take one more step. Because under Florida laws, most records are readily available to anyone in the public. It is important that confidential information is protected from public view online. As the custodian of all recorded documents and court records in our county, I make every effort to safeguard the integrity of those records.

My office is here to protect you from becoming a victim. Visit our website at www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/publicrecords and search for your name. If you find any confidential information listed, contact us immediately at 561.355.2996.

We also offer workshops on identity theft prevention and notify you of new fraudulent scams. To schedule a speaker for your office or group, call 561.355.2468, and to view our Clerk Alerts, visit www.mypalmbeachclerk.com/fraud. Together, we can make Palm Beach County a safer place.

Best regards,

Sharon R. Bock, Esq.
Clerk & Comptroller, Palm Beach County

The Florida Constitution established the independent office of the Clerk & Comptroller as a public trustee, responsible for safeguarding public records and public funds. Clerk Sharon Bock is directly elected by and accountable to Palm Beach County residents. She serves as your Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Recorder, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor for Palm Beach County.