



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Possible Scam Involving Access Healthcare

Date: September 20, 2011

On Thursday, 9/14/11, and Friday, 9/15/11, several patients called Access Healthcare to inform them they had received a concerning phone call. The caller (suspect) uses caller ID spoofing technology so the call appears to be coming from Access Healthcare. The call recipient is told that a refund is due to them for various reasons up to and including something related to President Obama's new healthcare plan. The reasons and facts tend to vary; however, the caller attempts to obtain the recipient's checking account information so that money can be direct deposited into their account for the alleged refund.

On September 20, 2011, Access Healthcare contacted law enforcement after receiving at least 7 calls from patients that have been targeted by this scam. Access Healthcare has checked all of their data files and network and confirmed that there is no evidence that anyone has been able to breach the network and obtain ANY patient data and/or information. It appears this may be another random "phishing" scam in which calls are made to many people hoping to gain access to at least some of the unsuspecting recipient's bank information. The calls may not be directed at actual patients of Access Healthcare. Since this health care provider is one of the largest in the area, scammers may be using this information to increase the potential of reaching an actual patient.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is interested in speaking to victims who have provided their bank account information to anyone over the phone regarding any variation of this scheme. If someone suspects they have been a victim of a scam, they should immediately contact their bank and report to them that their information was compromised to make sure their account is closed to prevent any loss or further loss. Victims should also file a fraud alert with the three major credit bureau's. If any money was stolen or someone's identity has been used illegally they should provide any information regarding the loss to the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at the time a report is made.

If you are not a patient of Access Healthcare but have been contacted by a suspected scammer, you are encouraged to contact Hernando County Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes Unit Sgt. Jeff

Kraft (jkraft@hernandosheriff.org) so that the information can be documented and used to determine if this scam is only directed at patients of Access Healthcare or the general public. If you are not a victim and have suffered no loss, a report will not be filed; however, your information will be documented to assist with anyone that was victimized by this scheme.

We want the citizen's of Hernando County to be aware that this is the second similar alert posted within the past week. The first one had the caller identifying themselves as being with Suncoast School Federal Credit Union. Please remain vigilant with all of your personal identification and financial information. These types of scams take many forms and variations, but **NOBODY** should ever give their sensitive information over the phone unless it is a business and/or person that they know or do regular business with. Hernando County residents have been very successful at not being victimized by these scams, so please share this information with everyone in an effort to help prevent this and other frauds from affecting our community.