



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Scammer Alert-Fake Job Ad

Date: September 30, 2008

Case#:

SCAMMER ALERT!!!!

New phishing scam, from a company called Permission Research. A newspaper ad was placed in our local newspapers under the job section stating "in bound customer service reps needed for immediate start in the Brooksville area". The ad provided a toll free number for the applicant to call.

Here is how the scam works, after making the phone call and giving his/ her home address to the person on the other end of the phone, the applicant receives a packet in the mail. The envelope arrives and contained a letter and a form for the applicant fill out which asks for personal information. There is also a check for \$2,500.00 in the envelope.

The letter informs the applicant that he/she had been picked as a regional representative and he/she needs to complete an assignment within 48 hours that will pay him/her \$150.00 per hour with a two hour maximum time limit. The applicant was to deposit the \$2,500.00 check provided to him/her and keep \$300.00 as payment for the two hours of work. He/she was then to take the rest to a Wal-Mart location where he/she was to send a money gram to a fictitious relative "Lee Flewox" in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

In actuality, the check that the applicant received in the mail is FAKE and if the applicant had followed through with the instruction such as obtaining a money gram and mailing it to Canada, the applicant would have lost \$2,200.00 when the fake check bounced.

The bottom line answering ads offering LOTS of money for a little amount of work or sending money out of the country to make "supposedly" LOTS of money are **SCAMS!**