TIMELY WARNING NOTICE: USF ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

Crime Alert Bulletin

SCAM/FRAUD INCIDENT
January 16th, 2020

Earlier today, UPD was contacted by a person who reported being the victim of a scam fraud via text messaging. “Mobile Phishing” or “Smishing” occurs when a scammer impersonates a friend, family member in trouble or employer and then attempts to trick you into providing personal information or buying gift cards and sending photos of the codes to them. The scammer will usually have completed some research in order to sound very convincing to you.

The best advice is to be very suspicious and remain on guard. Never tap or click links in messages, look up numbers and website addresses and input them yourself. Don’t give any information to a caller unless you’re certain they are legitimate – you can always call them back.

How to Avoid Smishing Scams
https://www.fcc.gov/avoid-temptation-smishing-scams

How to Avoid Phone Scams
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams

How to Avoid Fraud
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0060-10-things-you-can-do-avoid-fraud

What is Phishing?
https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0003-phishing

What is Spoofing?
https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id

For additional information or to report a scam or fraud to the Federal Trade Commission contact https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1. If you need any additional information or assistance, please contact the University Police at 727-873-4444 or police@usfsp.edu.