



**INSTITUTIONAL SAFETY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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CLERY Timely Warning 5-13

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Internet E-Mail Scam

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department would like you to be aware of an Internet E-Mail scam focusing on University students. In the scam, an e-mail is sent to numerous student e-mail accounts stating that a job opportunity exists which will pay them \$600 per month to assist clients in the purchasing and shipping of office supplies. The e-mail subject line may read "Crucial Email Read Now".

The e-mail asks the reader to reply if interested and then asks for personal information in a subsequent reply. Future e-mails state that a check will be mailed to the reader and that they are to deposit the check into their account and in turn purchase and ship the supplies with the money sent as seed money to get them started. The checks are fraudulent and the victim is out any money they spend for supplies and shipping. The scam also asks the victim to forward wire transfers of cash after they deposit the check. Since the check is fraudulent, all outgoing expenses and funds come directly out of the victims account.

If you receive an e-mail of this nature, do not respond and immediately delete it and / or contact the Missouri Attorney General for guidance. They can be reached at ago.mo.gov or by phone at 573.751.3321.

Don't hesitate to contact the UMSL Police Department at 314.516.5155 with questions or concerns about email or internet fraud..

Tips to avoid scams

- Be skeptical of any unsolicited phone calls, e-mails or personal visits from strangers about investments.
- Don't do business with a faceless person over the phone or internet.
- Work with companies that are known or recommended by someone you trust.
- Check out the company with the Securities Division of the Secretary of State's Office, 800.721.7996. All securities brokers and securities sold in Missouri (unless exempted by statute) must be registered.
- Ask the salesperson to send literature about the firm. Do not be swayed by glossy brochures some con artists produce. Also, ask for a written proposal describing conditions of the contract and a form outlining the investment risks.
- Get a second opinion on the purchase, opportunity or investment from your lawyer, Stockbroker, accountant or other qualified expert.

(This information is distributed in accordance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998. To learn more about Jeanne Clery, please visit: <http://www.securityoncampus.org/>. For more personal safety tips please visit the UMSL Police website at: <http://safety.umsl.edu/police/safety/safety-tips.html>)



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