Public Safety Advisory - Scams & Fraud

September 21, 2022

Last week, Yale Police Chief Anthony Campbell sent a message to the Yale Community about an increase in scams and fraud impacting our Yale community. Please read his message below and stay alert to protect yourself!

To the Yale Community,

In recent months we have seen an increase in reporting of fraud cases by members of the Yale Community. Two recent trends occurring regionally and reported on campus are direct deposit request for change schemes and identity theft involving unauthorized filing of unemployment claims.

Direct deposit fraud involves an email, likely spoofed, being sent by a purported employee to an administrator requesting a change in payroll direct deposit, thereby diverting the funds to an account held by the fraudster. There are various steps you can take to prevent negative outcomes after receiving a fraudulent email:

- Check the email sender’s name and header
- It is important to note that the email address should match the sender’s name
- Avoid clicking on any links on the email and responding to it, until you confirm the email address
- Review the Direct Deposit Fraud Bulletin found at: https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery/frauds-scams-and-cons [1]
- Contact Yale Police regarding any suspicious or unusual activity at 203-432-4400
Unemployment Claims Fraud involves someone filing claims for unemployment benefits by posing as Yale employees using stolen identity information. Sometimes the information is found online, stolen through social media phishing, or personally identifiable information purchased on the dark web.

The Connecticut Department of Labor has an ID theft report form online at [https://portal.ct.gov/dolui/fraud-alert](https://portal.ct.gov/dolui/fraud-alert). You can also call 1-800-956-3294 weekdays as well for live assistance.

As a general rule:

- Never wire money, put money on a gift or cash reload card, or send cash to an unverified email sender (e.g. the University, Social Security, the Department of Labor, and other agencies). These entities will never require you to pay using a gift cards or cash apps.
- Unverified emails that have attachments must not be opened.
- If you are unsure if the sender is legitimate or who they are claiming to be, use appropriate resources to verify the sender (e.g. looking at the official website or contact the local agency/office).

Under federal law, each of the three major credit reporting agencies Equifax, Experian and TransUnion are required to furnish a free credit report annually to anyone who asks for it: [https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/credit-reports-and-scores/](https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/credit-reports-and-scores/)

If you think you are a victim of fraud, please contact the Yale University Police Department 203-432-4400 or use the LiveSafe app to communicate with the police department. [https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/stay-safe-campus/livesafe-app](https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/stay-safe-campus/livesafe-app)

Additional resources can be found at: [https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery/frauds-scams-and-cons](https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery/frauds-scams-and-cons)

[https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery#crime-prevention](https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery#crime-prevention)

Register for LiveSafe.
For more crime prevention and safety tips please visit the Stay Safe on Campus page on It's Your Yale.

Sincerely,

Anthony Campbell
Chief of Police


**Links**

[5] [https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery#crime-prevention](https://your.yale.edu/community/public-safety/clery#crime-prevention)