Scammers Using SEVP Phone Numbers to Target International Students

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The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has informed schools of a spoofing scam involving individuals using the SEVP Response Center (SRC) phone numbers (703-603-3400 and 800-892-4829) and claiming to be SRC representatives.

The fraudulent callers are inquiring about Form I-94 documents and asking students to provide information regarding monetary transactions. Another student has reported receiving a SMS message that read “Legal Notice: A case has been registered under your name for violating the immigration laws. Get more information on this, call +1866402043” OISS is hearing of more and more scams (all a little different), including scams where the individual represents themself in an email as a Yale professor needing a personal assistant. For more information please review our Scams & Fraud information [1].

- Remember, SEVP officials will NEVER ask stakeholders to provide credit/debit/gift card numbers, wire transfers or bank routing numbers or to make bitcoin deposits for any purpose. The same holds true for other government agencies like the IRS, Social Security and USCIS.
- NEVER divulge personal or financial information, including your SSN, passport and bank account numbers, to unknown callers.
- NEVER make a payment or buy a gift card unless you are sure it is legitimate.
- If you think you have been contacted by someone trying to commit fraud, please contact OISS [2] and Yale Police [3]. OISS can help you determine if the situation is a scam. Calls from individuals presenting themselves as representatives of DHS/ICE/USCIS or SEVP can also be reported to the HSI tip line [4].
Below is an additional excerpt from The ICE Office of Professional Responsibility. [5]

How does the FRAUD happen?

- The imposter will identify themselves as a federal law enforcement officer, employee or contractor of ICE or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- The imposter will demand money or merchandise from you claiming to be able to help you get an immigration benefit, legal status, or documents.
- The promised benefit or service is never received.

Legitimate ICE Officers will never:

- Offer lawful immigration status or other immigration services in exchange for money or merchandise
- Use the internet or telephone to contact a member of the public to offer immigration services in exchange for payment through pre-paid cash cards like GreenDot or services like Western Union and MoneyGram
- Use a third-party person to solicit and collect a fee from a member of the public in exchange for immigration services
- Ask you or any member of the public for payment of any kind

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/news/scammers-using-sevp-phone-numbers-to-target-international-students

Links:
[1] https://oiss.yale.edu/taxes-legal/scams-fraud
[2] https://oiss.yale.edu/about/connect-with-oiss