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MEDIA ADVISORY

Consumers Warned About Fraudulent Unclaimed Property Email Messages

Lexington, Ky. – As the official representative of the state unclaimed property programs, the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators is warning consumers to be on their guard against fraudulent emails advising them that they have unclaimed property.

Americans are currently receiving a particularly deceptive message stating that it is from the NAUPA director, Jeff Smith and that an abandoned package has been found belonging to the recipient. When unsuspecting people reply to the fake message they are directed to a contact with an international phone number.

Ron G. Crane, Idaho State Treasurer and president of NAUPA, ensures the public that there is no such person and that NAUPA does not notify owners of forgotten or missing funds. “The state unclaimed property agencies themselves regularly contact rightful owners in an effort to reunite them with their lost property but not our association,” Crane said.

“As government agencies conduct more business by email, it can be very confusing for citizens. We recommend that people always contact their state unclaimed property office to verify that any communication regarding unclaimed property is indeed legitimate.”

Contact information for all state unclaimed property programs can be obtained at www.unclaimed.org.

NAUPA encourages individuals to report any suspicious unclaimed property communication to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) online at www.ic3.gov/complaint/default.aspx and the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/.

An example of the fraudulent unclaimed property messages is online at www.unclaimed.org.

The National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators is a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Association of State Treasurers.

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