

Scams Targeting Lawyers and Law Firms - 6 February 2024

There are increasing number of scams targeting lawyers, law firms, and their bank accounts (including their clients' accounts). The scope and sophistication of these scams are constantly evolving. Members have to be vigilant at all times when receiving telephone calls, emails, text messages and pop-up notifications, especially from unknown sources.

Never disclose sensitive information (personal information and banking information in particular) to anyone without first verifying their identity from independent and trust-worthy sources. When in doubt, STOP.

As a general precaution:

1. Be vigilant and always treat every unfamiliar call/email with suspicion.
2. If in doubt, always call back to check. Call the general line of the organisation. Search on the internet for the general line if you have to instead of using the number that the caller gave you. Ask for the person directly and talk to that person using the number you called.
3. Do not install any unfamiliar app or go to any unfamiliar website, especially apps or websites that the caller asks you to install or go to. Such apps or websites can cause a third party to take control of your computer or phone.
4. Do not transfer any money or give out sensitive information to unverified persons. Most legitimate organisations do not ask for such information without first allowing you to check their identity from independent and trust-worthy sources.

Members are strongly encouraged to read up on such scams to protect yourself. Some suggested resources are:

- **Search the latest Scam Information**
<https://www.scamalert.sg/>
- **Advisory from GovTech - Top 5 scams in Singapore and how to protect yourself from them**
<https://www.tech.gov.sg/media/technews/top-five-scams-in-singapore-and-how-to-protect-yourself>
- **Advisory from Smart Nation – Scams involving Government agencies**
<https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/media-hub/press-releases/04072022/>
- **Advisory from DBS on scams involving banks**
<https://www.dbs.com.sg/personal/support/guide-security-on-scams-and-fraud.html>
- **Advisory from OCBC on scams involving banks**
<https://www.ocbc.com/personal-banking/security/overview.page>
- **Advisory from UOB on scams involving banks**
<https://www.uob.com.sg/personal/digital-banking/pib/security/how-you-can-protect-yourself.page>