



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

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IDENTITY THEFT E-MAIL SCAM ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Redding - The Shasta County District Attorney's Office Real Estate Fraud Unit has been apprised of a new e-mail scam. This scam gives thieves access to a victim's identifying information after they invade the victim's e-mail address book.

To that end, a scammer will access a victim's e-mail and download all available information (including personal contacts), wiping out all saved documents and folders. Once the scammer obtains the victim's cell phone number, the scammer will add himself/herself to the person's account and change the security code and security questions.

Next, the scammer will send an e-mail to one of the victim's personal contacts. At the top of the email, in bold print, the scammer will enter the victim's name and e-mail (i.e., John A. Doe at johndoe@yahoo.com). Below that, the scammer will enter Reply-To: johnadoe@yahoo.com (notice the scammer has added an "a" to the e-mail). The scammer will then claim to be the victim, explaining that he or she is on vacation in a foreign country and had his or her wallet stolen, which included a passport and credit cards. The scammer will add other hardship information and request that the recipient of the e-mail send money for him or her to purchase a plane ticket home. The scammer would then await the forwarding of money from the second victim.

To help protect you from being a victim, the Real Estate Fraud Unit requests you periodically change your security codes and maintain important documents in locations not accessible by your e-mail or cell phone. In addition, check your cell phone account to ensure a person has not been added. If you receive an e-mail requesting money be sent to any location, please make sure you confirm the person requesting the funds is actually located at the place where you think they are located.
