

# Security Information Bulletin

www.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/security

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Bulletin Subject E-MAIL SCAM ALERT

## Summary

A new scam is active that involves a letter which appears to come from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United States Department of Homeland Security regarding an immigration clearance certificate.

The e-mails list the contact person as the Reverend Frank Tim Kelly, or sometimes just Reverend Frank Kelly. The e-mail is an attempt to gain your name, address and telephone number along with a fee of \$350.00. There is a warning that if the recipient of the letter does not respond within 48 hours that legal action will commence.

Corporate Security has confirmed that these e-mails are fraudulent and nothing more than a financial scam intended to defraud recipients of \$350.00 and possibly expose you to additional identity theft. **You are urged to delete these e-mails upon receipt.**

### Red Flags Evident in these Cases:

- The FBI is not involved with immigration-related matters.
- The federal government sends its official communications via the United States mail and not through unsolicited e-mails.
- Recipients of these letters are almost always United States citizens without immigration issues.
- The contact person identifies himself as legal counsel to the government but uses 'Reverend' in his official title.
- There are grammatical errors throughout the document: punctuation, improper capitalization of words, and improper verb tense.
- There is no contact telephone number.
- The sender uses a personal e-mail address rather than a government e-mail address as a contact point.
- The sender indicates that the International Court of Justice will file legal action even though this purports to be a document from the United States federal government.

More information on this scam can be found at the following sites online:

#### *Sample E-mail*

[http://www.419baiter.com/\\_scam\\_emails/0-rzy-09-07a/scam-email-047721.shtml](http://www.419baiter.com/_scam_emails/0-rzy-09-07a/scam-email-047721.shtml)

#### *Article*

<http://vicksburgonlinenews.com/19/?p=2984>

#### *FBI Warning*

<http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/internet-alert-scammers-sending-fake-fbi-e-mails-seeking-personal-information>

**All faculty, staff and students are reminded to alert Security Communications (5-5585) immediately of any suspicious persons or activity.**

Johns Hopkins Medicine, Corporate Security  
Executive Office - 550 N. Broadway, Suite 503  
Baltimore, MD 21205  
410-614-3473 P  
410-614-3907 F

