

Fraudulent Check Scam Alert

Fort Bend Independent School District has received reports from victims all over the country stating that they have received checks issued by Fort Bend ISD to pay for items being sold on Internet classified ads. These checks are counterfeit and fraudulent, DO NOT CASH THESE CHECKS.

There are many variations of this type of scam which is known as a 419 Advanced Fee Scam. One common variation involves the victim selling an item on the Internet. The victim will receive a check significantly over the amount of the items listed price. The victim will receive instructions from the scammer to cash the check, take out an additional amount for their troubles, and then wire the over-payment to an offshore bank account. If the victim complies, the victim will cash the check at their bank, and wire the money to the bank listed in the scammer's instructions. When the victim's bank discovers that the check is counterfeit, the bank will take the lost funds out of the victim's bank account to cover their losses.

This type of fraud is being committed by Global Organized Crime Syndicates. These syndicates are comprised of many individuals with specialized roles who may or may not know each other. The leaders of these scams are usually located outside the country.

For more information on how these scams work, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website:
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre40.shtm>

If you believe that you are a victim and have not cashed the check, we ask that you do the following:

- Handle the check and the contents of the package with gloves and mail the original check and contents to:

Fort Bend ISD Police Department
Attention: Investigator Ramon Martinez
13600 Murphy Road
Stafford, TX 77477

Please include your name and contact information so that an investigator can contact you.

- Send the email headers from any emails received from the scammer to:
ramon.martinez@fortbendisd.com. For information on how to obtain email headers please go to http://www.fraudaid.com/find_headers.htm. You may also mail the headers to the address above.

If you have cashed the check and become a victim, contact your local law enforcement agency and report the incident to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at: <http://www.ic3.gov>

This information has been prepared by the Fort Bend ISD Police Department and the FBISD Office of Safe and Secure Schools.