

E-mail scam alert

February 10, 2014

The Office of the Clerk of the Mississippi Court of Appeals has reported receiving inquiries from members of the public regarding e-mail which falsely claims to have come from the court.

The suspicious e-mails state that the recipient's complaint has been received by the court, and attempt to get the recipient to open a link or an attached document. Recipients of these e-mails advise that they have not filed anything with the courts.

These e-mails have not been sent by the Court of Appeals or any entity associated with the Mississippi Judiciary. Persons who are not involved in litigation would not receive e-mail from the Mississippi appellate courts.

Persons who have no involvement in litigation pending before the courts are warned not to open a link or attachment in unsolicited e-mail fitting this description. Opening such a link or attachment may download malicious software.

E-mails referencing the Mississippi appellate court appear to have been sent all over the country. The Office of the Clerk of the Mississippi Court of Appeals has received inquiries from Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, South Carolina and Washington.

Courts in other states have identified e-mails fitting this description as an effort to download a computer virus or malicious software. Recipients all over the country have described e-mails which purport to be acknowledgment of filing of a nonexistent legal document or claim, or which instruct the recipient to report to a court on a particular date. The common thread is that the e-mails ask the recipient to open a document attachment or click on a link. Opening the attachment or link may download malicious software.

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