



June 2, 2020

Dear Valued Member,

One of our principle goals at Members Choice Financial Credit Union is to keep you, and your families, financially healthy and financially secure. As we navigate the Covid-19 crisis, we stand ready and willing to assist you by offering a variety of financial solutions to meet your needs.

Unfortunately, there are always bad actors out there who seek to take advantage of a crisis and threaten your financial security. The events surrounding Covid-19 and the resulting rise in unemployment claims are no exception.

We have been made aware of a targeted attack on Unemployment Offices throughout the country. On May 22, 2020, the United States Secret Service (USSS) issued an advisory indicating that they are, "investigating an extensive fraud scheme that involves the use of stolen personal identifying information to fraudulently claim unemployment benefits that are then paid out by state governments. Perpetrators apply online with the stolen identifying information, and direct payment of the benefits to a financial institution or debit account of their choosing. After those funds are deposited in the identified account, they are then withdrawn at locations around the country and transferred to other accounts, including accounts overseas."

The fraud scheme identified by the USSS has impacted individuals throughout the country, including members of our own community.

Generally, here is how it works:

1. The scammer, using stolen Social Security Numbers, file unemployment claims in different states.
2. The scammer, using social engineering techniques, obtains your account information and provides it to the unemployment agency.
3. The fraudulent unemployment benefits are deposited through the ACH system to your account.
4. The scammer instructs you to withdraw the funds in cash, or otherwise transfer the funds to another account.
5. Once the scammer has the funds, the money is gone and virtually untraceable, leaving you potentially on the hook for the fraudulent benefit claim.

This is a time to be even more diligent in protecting our financial health as the scammers are out in force. Please make sure that you, and members of your family, are doing everything possible to protect yourself from fraud. Here are just a few suggestions on how you can protect yourself:

1. Do not respond to unsolicited email communications.
2. Never click on website links embedded in emails.

3. Do not provide information to anyone via phone or text message from an organization that you are not familiar with. Even if you are familiar with them, it is always best to contact the organization at a number known to you or available on their public website.
4. Do not provide your personal information to unofficial websites.
5. Keep your security software up to date.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff at Members Choice Financial Credit Union are always ready to assist you in protecting your financial health and remember to trust your instincts- ***If something does not feel right, it probably is not.***

Let us know how we can help you and thank you for being a member!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Barbarich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Barbarich
President / CEO
Members Choice