

Receive a text message about a pending package? **Don't click the link, officials say**

If you recently received a text message about a pending package with a link, it's a **phishing scheme**, according to authorities.

Many text message scams address the recipient by name and entice them to click on a link, promising information about a missing package they say belongs to them.

An example of one of the phishing text messages reads: *"We came across a package from June owed to you. Please assume ownership and schedule for delivery here."*

The scheme provides a link in the text message. When the link is clicked, it prompts the user to fill out additional information, such as credit card information. The Orange County Sheriff's Department said in a Facebook post on Monday that, *"Based on the information they obtain, cyber criminals can steal your identity, empty your bank account, or install malware in your phone."*

According to the sheriff's office, it's best to ignore the message and/or block the phone number it came from.

The messages can also be reported to the Better Business Bureau's Scam Tracker at www.bbb.org.

Note: Unfortunately, this article did not indicate if these scammers are only using cell phones. I would suspect that they may become more aggressive and begin using email addresses too. Be careful!

Above information was taken from a news article posted on WFLA news channel 8 posted on 9/19/20

Submitted by Barb Kanehl, Neighborhood Watch Chair