

SCAMS REPORT
MILTON TOWNSHIP S.A.L.T. COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 12, 2021 (VIRTUAL)

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Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Scam

[In Illinois, the DMV is officially known as the Vehicle Services Department]

How it works: You receive an email or text message appearing to originate from the Illinois Secretary of State's office. The message states that it's time to renew your vehicle's license registration or it may ask you to confirm your driver's license number and other personal information to comply with new federal regulations. The message states that these tasks can be completed online to make it more convenient.

You're instructed to click on a link in the message to access the DMV website and provide the requested information. If you follow the instructions, you may be taken to a site that seems legitimate, but is actually a fake. Any money you remit will be lost and cannot be recovered. The personal information you provide puts you at risk for identity theft or will be sold to other fraudsters.

How to protect yourself:

- There is no federal regulation requiring a state's DMV to contact you to confirm your driver's license number and other personal information. If you're asked to do so, you are dealing with a scammer and should delete the message.
- Before clicking on any links, determine if your vehicle's current license registration is about to expire. If it's not, you are dealing with a scammer and should delete the message.
- Do not click on any links or open any attachments until you're reasonably certain the message is legitimate. This prevents harmful malware from being installed on your device.
- The Illinois Secretary of State's website address for license plate renewals is <https://apps.ilsos.gov/license renewal>. Before proceeding, make sure that the address at the top of your browser is correct and that the site is secure. Secure sites always start with "https://" or include a "lock" icon in the address bar. Some secure sites include both.
- If the DMV's website contains grammatical or typographical errors, you're probably dealing with someone from another country and should delete the message.
- Verify that the DMV's website includes a working telephone number and physical address.
- If you believe that everything is in order, payment for the license registration renewal should be made with a credit card. Charges made with a credit card that turn out to be fraudulent can usually be disputed. This is not the case with unconventional payment methods (e.g., gift cards, debit cards, or wire transfers).
- If you've been a victim of this scam, report it to the Better Business Bureau at bbb.org/scamtracker.

[Resource: BBB]

Covid-19 Vaccine Survey Scam

How it works: You receive an email or text message asking you to complete a survey about the Covid-19 vaccine. The message states you will receive a gift or monetary compensation in exchange for completing and returning the survey. You're told you have to pay a small fee for shipping the gift.

How to protect yourself:

- If you receive such a message, it's a scam. Participants are never asked to pay a fee for gifts they get for completing legitimate surveys. Delete the message. Do not click on any links or open any attachments.
- Do not provide any bank account, credit card, or personal information in order to receive your gift. If you do, fraudulent purchases will be charged to your account. You also risk having your identity stolen and personal information sold to other fraudsters.
- If you think the offer may be legitimate, you should contact the company sponsoring the survey to confirm it. Use an email address or telephone number you know is authentic. Do not use the contact information included in the message.
- If you've been a victim of this scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

[Resource: FTC]