



# Commonwealth Fusion Center Massachusetts



## (U) Massachusetts State Police, Commonwealth Fusion Center US Marshals Phishing Scheme 25 April 2022

### (U) OVERVIEW

(U) The Massachusetts State Police Commonwealth Fusion Center has received reports of an increase nationwide of a particular **phishing**<sup>1</sup> scheme that occurs over the phone. Scammers call unsuspecting victims claiming to be U.S. Marshals and demand they comply with their instructions. The imposters claim the victims have outstanding warrants, court/legal fees, or particular payments that are owed to avoid arrest or jail time. The goal for the scammer is to trick their victims into providing sensitive/banking information, transferring money, or buying prepaid debit cards. The caller could use a variety of tactics to sound more legitimate such as providing badge numbers, case numbers, and names of law enforcement officials or federal judges. The caller may even spoof their phone number to appear on caller ID to come from a government facility or court house.



Source: Cleveland19 News

**The United States Marshals Service would never ask for credit card numbers, wire transfers, or other financial information over the phone.**

### Varieties of this scam include

- Purchase pre-paid debit cards to pay penalties for failing to appear in court.
- Provide banking/financial information to pay fines for outstanding warrants.
- Provide Social Security Number to confirm identity.
- Transfer money to a digital wallet to avoid court or arrest.

### (U) RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

(U) Report incidents to your police department of jurisdiction.  
(U) To report a suspected Internet-facilitated crime to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, follow the link to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3):

- Internet Crime Complaint Center - [WWW.IC3.GOV](http://WWW.IC3.GOV)

### (U) OUTLOOK

(U) The Massachusetts State Police, CFC is providing this information for situational awareness purposes only. Please report any suspicious activity to your police department of jurisdiction.

### Sources:

- (U) "U.S Marshals warn of phone scam," WABI5 News, 15 March 2022  
(U) "Social Engineering in a Time of Social Distancing," Foregenix, 4 March 2020  
(U) "Beware malicious phone scam impersonating Social Security officer, US Marshals warn," ABC News, 19 December 2019  
(U) "U.S. Marshals Alert Public of Phone Scams," US Marshals Service, 9 December 2021  
(U) "Fake federal marshals call Northeast Ohioans, demand pre-paid debit cards to pay phoney fines, U.S. Marshals warn," Cleveland19 News, 19 August 2021  
(U) "U.S. Marshals, FBI Urge Public to Report Phone Scams," US Marshals Service, accessed 25 April 2022

<sup>1</sup> Phishing is a cybercrime in which the unsuspecting victim willingly gives sensitive information (personal, financial, business) to someone they believe is an official/legitimate representative of an institution with which they have an existing or trusted relationship.

**Unclassified**

The information contained in this bulletin is unclassified.