

Consumer Alert: Phishing Scam Targets Unemployment Insurance Claimants in Text Messages

The Office of the Attorney General has been made aware of a scheme in which fraudsters are impersonating the Maryland Department of Labor, Division of Unemployment Insurance in text messages.

To protect yourself from fraud, access your BEACON claimant portal by typing the following web address into your browser (https://beacon.labor.maryland.gov/beacon/claimant-page.html), or use the MD Unemployment for Claimants mobile app. If you receive text message, or an email, that appears to be from the Maryland Department of Labor, **DO NOT click on any links** in the message. Fraudulent websites that are impersonating the Department of Labor can look very similar to the real website. In the reported message, the fraudulent link began "mdgovapp.us."

If you believe that your information has been used to fraudulently file an unemployment insurance claim in Maryland, you must contact the Maryland Department of Labor. Complete the Request for Investigation of Unemployment Insurance Fraud form and email it to ui.fraud@maryland.gov.

To read about other ways to protect yourself from scams, fraud, and identity theft, visit our Consumer Protection Division <u>publications page</u>.

https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2022/032822CA.pdf