



SPECIAL ALERT

December 3, 2010

SUBJECT: Fraudulent Correspondence Claiming to Be From the FDIC

Fraudulent correspondence bearing the FDIC's name continues to be mailed, faxed and emailed. This correspondence is being used in illegal schemes to collect sensitive personal information, such as bank account numbers, and to steal money and other assets.

Recipients should NOT, under any circumstances, respond to the fraudulent requests. The criminals, knowing that people trust the FDIC name, have duplicated the official logo and seal in fraudulent letters, forms, certificates and other correspondence. Recent examples have included invoices, bills, transfer forms, guarantees, endorsements, and confirmations of stock and investment purchases. In some cases, recipients were asked to complete fraudulent forms and return them by fax or e-mail. In other cases, recipients were asked to remit funds via check or wire transfer service.

The FDIC rarely sends unsolicited bills or other similar documents to financial institutions, businesses and consumers. In particular, the FDIC does not send unsolicited correspondence asking for sensitive personal information, including bank account information. Anyone receiving such correspondence should contact the FDIC immediately by calling toll-free at 1-877-ASK-FDIC (1-877-275-3342) or by e-mailing to alert@fdic.gov. Do not use contact information listed for the FDIC in the correspondence because it is likely to be falsified.