

Bank employees have your account information

Dear Attorney General Kline:
My husband and I received a call the other evening from a man claiming to be an employee of a bank with which we do business. The conversation was general in nature until he asked for me to confirm one of our account numbers, which I declined to do. As an "employee" of our bank, should he not already have access to our account numbers?

Dear Kansas Consumer:
You are correct that a legitimate employee of your financial institution should indeed have that kind of information at his disposal, so you definitely did the right thing by not giving him any of your account in-



phill
kline

• attorney general

formation.

Your personal information is now a hot commodity on the world market. Your social security number, credit cards, checking account numbers, drivers' license and other items of interest can bring hundreds of dollars on the black market. When they are sold in such a manner, the result is identity theft.

Identity thieves realize that most Kansans are too savvy to part with this information without a good reason. The smartest ID thieves come up with elaborate hoaxes and deceptions to create an emergency situation in hopes that Kansans will panic and give up personal data.

Consumers should beware of false emergencies like these:

- "This is the clerk of the court calling to inform you that a bench warrant has been issued since you failed to appear for jury duty. Please confirm your social security num-

ber if this warrant should be recalled."

- "This e-mail informs you that your credit card order for child pornography is now being processed. Enter your number to cancel this transaction."

- "Take this survey and be registered for our million dollar prize: What is your mother's maiden name?"

- "Please send a copy of your bank statement to the following post office box."

Unfortunately, Kansans who are easily panicked by such urgent calls or e-mail too often find themselves the victims of identity theft.

You should ask questions before

giving your personal information out, and be careful of what personal information you carry in your wallet, purse or vehicle. It is also a good idea to order a free credit report once a year, and you can do that by calling toll-free (877) 322-8228.

More information on this topic is available from my Consumer Protection Division's 24-hour Information Line. Just call (785) 296-2424, Category 8, Message 2 for more on how to protect yourself from ID theft and what to do if you are a victim of ID theft.

In short, never give out credit card, banking or social security information in response to a call or e-mail that you did not initiate. Legiti-

mate companies and agencies do not solicit such information by the telephone or e-mail, but con artists do.

Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Debra L. Miller, Secretary of Transportation of State of Kansas to Richard C. Whitmore revocable trust, a tract of land in S/2 NW/4 Sec. 29, T7S R39W containing 1.52 acres.

Debra L. Miller, Secretary of Transportation of State of Kansas to Ronald E. Jamison and Sandra L. Jamison, a tract of land in S/2 NW/4 Sec. 29, T7S R39W containing .21 acre.

Justin D. Bentzinger to Andrew Kienitz and Josephine Kienitz, all of lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 85, Original Town of Goodland.

Ruth L. Morton, Marilyn Ruth Sloan and Daniel D. Sloan and Donald D. Morton and Susan D. Morton, W20' Lot 8, all of Lot 9 and E15' Lot 10, Block 49, Original Town of Goodland.

Leland L. Franklin and Eloisa Franklin to First National Bank, as custodian of the self directed IRA's

of Michael V. Foust and C. Jeanette Foust, Lots 11 and 12, Block 10, First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Plainsman Property Trust to Remnant Company U.B.O., S/2 Sec. 5, T10S R37W containing 320 acres and S/2 Sec. 19, T9S R37W containing 320 acres.

Kristina Nylander to Matthew L. Johnson and Melissa R. Johnson, a tract of land in NW/4 Sec. 12, T8S R39W.

J. David Wells and Patricia L. Wells and Jay D. Wells and Tammy Lee Wells to Dennis W. Stegman and Ryan A. Studer, a tract of land in NW/4 Sec. 30, T8S R39W containing 8.26 acres more or less.

Cendant Mobility Relocation Company to Robert Jones and Leora Jones, N/2 Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 34, First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Glen G. Snider to H. Merle Armstrong, Jr. and Donna J. Armstrong, two tracts of land in Sec. 22, T8S R38.

Rusty Fritz and Wendy Fritz to Waylon Walker and Irene Walker, Lots 12 and 13 and W13' Lots 14, Block 22, Second Addition to the City of Goodland.

Beatrice M. Driver and Richard Kay Driver, trustees of the Beatrice M. Driver revocable trust, Richard

Kay Driver and Beatrice M. Driver, trustees of the Richard Kay Driver revocable trust, a tract of land in NE/4 Sec. 21, T8S R40 known as Lot 5 and a tract of land in NE/4 Sec. 21, T8S R 40 known as W/2 Lot 6.

Jack Mitchek and Becky L. Mitchek quit claim to Jackson A.

Mitchek and Becky L. Mitchek, as trustees of Jack A. Mitchek trust no. 1, N/2 Sec. 22, T8S R37W; all of Sec. 21, T9S R41W except a tract containing 5 acres more or less; W/2 NW/4 Sec. 27, T9S R41W; N/2 Sec. 28, T9S R41W; all of Sec. 30,

T10S R40W; SE/4 Sec. 12, T10S R41W; NW/4 Sec. 13, T10S R41W; all of Sec. 25, T10S R41W; SW/4 Sec. 26, T7S R41W; NW/4 Sec. 36, T10S R41W; W/2 Sec. 2, T10S R42W; and SE/4 Sec. 3, T10S R42W.

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