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MEDIA ALERT

Utah Division of Consumer Protection warns of possible consumer scams in wake of recent Medicaid security breach at Utah Department of Health

"Scam artists may pose as government employees and try to obtain personal information"

(For immediate release...)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, announced today that the Division of Consumer Protection and Utah Department of Health are warning Utah consumers about possible scams that may come via text, phone or email after the recent Medicaid data breach. While no victims have reported formal complaints as of today's release, both the Division of Consumer Protection and Department of Health hope to thwart any fraudulent schemes by alerting the public.

"Con artists follow the local news like the rest of us so we are asking consumers to stay one step ahead of the fraudsters by reminding them government agencies would never ask for personal information over the phone or by text or by email," warned Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce, "We ask that all Utahns remain alert and ever vigilant against these scams which may target anyone, even those whose information was not part of the original security breach."

"Our main concern is the protection of our clients," stated David Patton, PhD, Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, "We're hopeful that by alerting them to all the possible situations associated with the Medicaid data breach, we can help them avoid compromising their sensitive information further."

The Utah Department of Health and Department of Technology Services have indicated that no representative from either agency will be contacting Utah consumers to ask for personal or account information.

Consumers are reminded to never give out personal account information, SSN numbers or other identifying information to strangers. Concerned citizens can visit www.health.utah.gov/databreach for contact information on how to monitor your credit, including how to place a fraud alert or credit freeze on your file. In addition, Medicaid clients can call the Department of Health's dedicated hotline at 1-855-238-3339.

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