

# Online Security

## **Jury Scam Surfaces in Massachusetts**

If a representative of the court system calls you up to sign you up for jury duty, be aware that it is just another scam designed to solicit your personal information. Callers are phoning to tell people they have missed jury duty and then request Social Security numbers and other personal information in order to "correct the problem."

Remember that the court system conducts their business through the mail and would never contact anyone by phone and ask for that type of information. You can report any suspicious calls to the state attorney general's consumer hotline at 617-727-8400. The jury duty scam is also being reported in other states across the country.

*posted February, 2007*

## **Caller ID Spoofing**

Be aware of Caller ID Spoofing, a tool used by law enforcement and collections agencies that has become easier to obtain over the last few years by less scrupulous people. With Caller ID Spoofing, technology-savvy callers can trick your caller ID system into displaying a false number so that thieves can then trick you into giving up a PIN number or parting with your credit card number and your cash.

One recent Caller ID scam involved jury duty. Thieves posed as court officers and called people to tell them they had missed jury duty and would have to pay a fine. They then took credit card information over the phone.

If you experience a similar call, hang up and locate the number of the private or government institution that the caller has claimed to represent. Then call that number to verify if the call you received did indeed come from the location. Chances are, you'll avoid being scammed.

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