中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區政府 Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau da República Popolar da China



Safe School Network Bulletin (August 2022) (A letter to Schools and Parents)

Recently, the Judiciary Police has received reports claiming that scammers had infiltrated parent communication groups on social networks, stolen avatars and account names of class teachers, and created fake accounts with the stolen information. Scammers would impersonate teachers and request parents to transfer funds using a variety of excuses, such as payment for academic fees, for purchasing supplementary teaching materials, etc. Scammers would then use an alternative account to pretend to be a parent asking how to make transfers, complete the first transfer, and demonstrate to other parents how to make transfers, baiting them to follow suit.

To avoid police detection, scammers would request payment methods which deviated from the schools' usual forms of payment. They would ask parents to log into designated social applications, deposit the requested amount, use the "red packet command" function to generate a command (i.e. a password), and send a screenshot with the command to the fake teacher's account, thus allowing the scammer to withdraw money from the account.

Since scamming techniques constantly evolve, the Judiciary Police urges parents to be vigilant at all times. Whenever they are informed to make payments using methods that differ from the schools' regular approach, or when they have doubts in the identity of the school representatives who ask them to make the payment, they should immediately verify with the schools via alternative channels of communication. Schools can also inform parents at the beginning of the academic year their accepted forms of payment for all academic fees to eliminate any opportunity for fraud.

To ensure a safe and healthy environment for our youths, the Judiciary Police consistently works hard to combat crimes as well as maintain efficient and close contact with the schools in Macau. Should schools or parents come across any crime intelligence, or wish to obtain more information on crime prevention, please contact us via the Safe School Network by phone (8800 5500), email (nam@pj.gov.mo), or fax (2835 6895). All information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

Youth Concern Group Community Policing and Public Relations Division Judiciary Police 8th August 2022

