



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTHERN BANK WARNS OF SCAMS

Southern Bank has announced that several customers and non-customers are reporting telephone calls being received stating that their Southern Bank debit card is locked. To unlock their card they are requested to press "1" to unlock the card and then would be requested to enter further card information. Southern Bank wants to remind everyone to never give their debit card or account information to an unsolicited caller or through any other unsolicited media means such as cell phone text messages or email. These calls are phishing scams and are an ongoing problem with many areas of the country and are occurring quite heavily now with various banks in the southeast Missouri region. Phishing is a scam carried out by some form of unsolicited notification to a consumer to obtain their personal or financial information.

Anyone receiving these calls is requested to simply hang up. Customers are always encouraged to be vigilant about their account and transactions. Southern Bank customers can use services such as Mobile Banking and Internet Banking to help monitor their accounts. A customer can even utilize transaction and balance notifications to help them in this process. Should a customer see anything abnormal on their account or entered their debit card information during one of these calls, they need to contact their local bank immediately.

It is also a noteworthy time to mention that this is income tax season and a highly marketable time for scammers to send bogus emails or other types of media messages stating that the recipient has some sort of problem with their tax refund. Do not click on any links or open any attachments to such messages. The IRS does not initiate any contact with taxpayers through any form of media such as email, text messages or social media channels.

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