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LEGAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER ON THWARTING SCAMMERS IN THEIR OWN GAME

EDISON — The November newsletter of Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) focuses on how New Jerseyans can avoid being duped by scammers utilizing phishing, phone, and tech ploys.

The bilingual publication, "Looking Out For Your Legal Rights," may be viewed online at www.lsnjlaw.org/media-center/publications.

In addition to zeroing in on scams, the newsletter carries articles on the limited circumstances when juvenile delinquency records can be made public, as well as another article laying out when juvenile records may qualify for expungement.

Essentially, digital users are strongly advised to be careful in analyzing messages they receive, especially any that press for "immediate" or "right now" responses. A rule-of-thumb is offered: "The bottom line is if something feels urgent or scary, STOP."

The common characteristics of many scams are cited as follows:

- You are not expecting a message from the sender.
- The message states that if you don't take action immediately, something very, very bad will happen.
- There are grammar or spelling mistakes in the message.
- The sender's email address looks legitimate but is slightly different.
- You are asked to send money via gift cards, Zelle or bitcoin.

Meanwhile, the article on juvenile records notes employers, landlords, and other public entities do not have access to such records. However, employers and others are free to ask about, but not demand, such detail. Once juvenile records are expunged, individuals can truthfully tell employers and others that they do not have past records, the article states.

More information about expunging juvenile or adult criminal records is available from the LSNJLAW toll-free Hotline at www.lsnjlawhotline.org or 1-888-576-5529.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), located in Edison, provides free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people.