

POLICE ADVISORY FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Over the past few months, there has been a sharp rise in the number of Fake Friend Call Scams, where scammers would exploit personal connections to manipulate victims into transferring funds under false pretences, resulting in financial losses and emotional distress.

2 Victims would receive text messages or phone calls from unknown numbers (with or without the +65 prefix). The scammers would claim to be a friend or acquaintance, asking victims to guess their identity. When victims provided them with a name of a friend or acquaintance assuming that they recognised the voice over the phone, the scammers would assume the identity of this friend. They would inform the victim that they had changed their number and to update it accordingly.

3 In the first variant of the scam, scammers would subsequently contact the victims again for loans, claiming that they are unable to perform a bank transaction or are experiencing financial difficulties.

4 For the second variant, scammers would send the victims malicious links and ask victims to help them in simple tasks like making a purchase, a restaurant reservation or to track a missing phone. The links would lead the victims to phishing sites and/or to download unknown applications containing malwares.

5 After keying their banking credentials or card details at phishing sites provided by the scammers to make payment, victims will then discover unauthorised transactions from their bank accounts or bank cards. For victims who downloaded and installed the app containing malware, scammers would be able to access their devices to remotely steal their passwords. The victims would then discover unauthorised transactions on their banking accounts.

6 The police recommend for residents to apply the following steps to stay safe from Fake Friend Call Scams:

- a) **CHECK** with your friend directly through the original contact number or via video calls to verify the caller. **DO NOT** save the new number immediately when asked to do so.
- b) **BE SKEPTICAL** of unusual requests made via unknown text messages or phone or WhatsApp calls, from someone who claims to be someone you know.



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Be especially wary if they requests for money from you when they have not done so before.

c) **Tell** your family and friends to keep them safe.

7 We recommend you to download the **ScamShield** app from official app stores. It serves as a hassle-free method to filter out scam calls and SMSes. Additionally, it serves as an avenue where users can report scams to the Police. Together, we can **ACT** against scams and protect ourselves and our loved ones.



8 To stay updated with the latest crime advisories, do sign up and be part of our Community Watch Scheme (CWS).

Step 1: Visit <https://www.volunteer.gov.sg/scheme-detail?code=CWS#tab-mha> or scan the QR code.

Step 2: Sign up for any of the interest groups to receive alerts and crime information in your areas of interest.

Yours faithfully,

**SUPT BERNICE ONG
COMMANDING OFFICER
BEDOK NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE CENTRE
BEDOK DIVISION
SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**

Sign up now!

