

Information Notice

FINRA Warns Firms of Regulator Impersonators

Summary

Recently, FINRA has received reports of member firms receiving telephone calls from persons claiming to work for FINRA in an attempt to deceive firms into revealing confidential information. FINRA is notifying firms that these individuals may be impersonators. Firms that receive telephone calls or emails purportedly from someone at FINRA requesting any type of information—confidential or otherwise—should use caution and verify the identity of the caller or sender before providing any information or responding to an email.

Questions regarding this *Notice* should be directed to Anthony Cavallaro, Senior Vice President, Central Review Group – Office of Fraud Detection and Market Intelligence, at (646) 315-7319.

Discussion

Investors are not the only target of fraudsters. Firms should be on the lookout for fraudsters posing as FINRA employees and requesting information for no apparent regulatory reason.

FINRA has recently received reports of firms receiving suspicious telephone calls from persons purporting to work for FINRA and requesting various types of information from the firms. In one instance, a caller to a firm claimed that she worked for FINRA, stating she wanted to obtain the contact information of key firm personnel for an upcoming FINRA event. The imposter refused to provide any information about herself other than a bogus telephone number and phony *finra.org* email address.

In another instance, several people at a firm were contacted by a woman seeking sensitive material who claimed to be a FINRA employee in the United Kingdom. The imposter provided the firm with a United Kingdom telephone number and an email address that used *@finra.org.co.uk* as the domain name.

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Suggested Routing

- ▶ Compliance
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Operations
- ▶ Risk
- ▶ Senior Management
- ▶ Training

Key Topics

- ▶ Confidential Information
- ▶ Data Security
- ▶ Fraud
- ▶ Information Security

Look for the warning signs of potentially fraudulent FINRA phone calls or emails. These include the use of an overseas telephone number or email address. When contacting firms, FINRA does not use overseas telephone numbers or foreign email domains. Any overseas telephone call you receive purportedly from a FINRA employee is indicative of an imposter scam. The same is true for emails you receive that use a suspicious domain name that does not end with *@finra.org* and contains attachments or embedded links.

FINRA warns firms that receive a suspicious phone call or email from someone purporting to work for FINRA to use caution before engaging with such person. If your firm has questions regarding the legitimacy of any communication that purports to be from FINRA, contact your firm's Regulatory Coordinator directly. The Regulatory Coordinator can confirm whether the communication is legitimate. FINRA also urges firms to exercise similar caution before responding to any regulatory inquiry that purports to be from the SEC or any other regulator.