



IDAHO
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEWARE: WEBSITES IMPERSONATING IDAHO BASED BANKS

Boise, Idaho... Patricia Perkins, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, is warning consumers to be aware of spoofed website scams. The Department recently became aware of two phony websites purporting to represent Idaho based banks: Bay Trust Bank and Rigid Trust Bank. Both of these websites were created with mirrored content from legitimate financial institutions. The websites claimed the fraudulent institutions had locations in Boise and Chubbuck, Idaho.

The Department has taken immediate action to have these websites removed; however, historically the Department has found perpetrators of website scams often create new sites under new names in an attempt to continue their efforts to victimize consumers.

Perkins urges Idahoans to exercise caution when visiting websites, especially those representing financial institutions. "As these scams are growing increasingly sophisticated, it is more important than ever to do your homework." A healthy amount of skepticism and research can help consumers identify fake websites. "Simply googling the address a company lists on their website can be telling, if the address is an empty lot, a PO Box, or a private residence these are definite red flags."

Other tips to avoid falling victim to website spoofing scams include bookmarking websites you've confirmed are legitimate to avoid sifting through multiple results from a search engine. Call the phone number listed on the website and ask detailed questions. Look carefully at the URL, bad actors purposefully make slight changes to known web addresses to direct web traffic to illegitimate websites.

Above all, avoid providing any personal or financial information without first completely verifying the legitimacy of the entity. For a list of Banks and Credit Unions in Idaho, visit the Department website <https://www.finance.idaho.gov/> and select the "financial institution search" page under the "who we regulate" tab. If you become aware of, or have fallen victim to, a spoofed financial institution website please contact Supervisory Examiner Robert Moore at (208) 332-8042 or robert.moore@finance.idaho.gov.

Consumers can obtain information about financial firms, professionals or products, as well as view more Department press releases and other information on the Internet at <http://finance.idaho.gov> or by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000 or Idaho toll-free at 1-888-346-3378.