

PALMETTO CONNECTION

WHAT IS **SMISHING?**

“Smishing” is the New Phishing

Look out — there’s a new scam in town! “Smishing” is a scam format that has recently encountered a boost in scammer popularity, and it’s surprisingly sneaky. Keep reading to learn more about smishing and how to keep your information safe!

What is Smishing?

Smishing is similar to phishing, but the scam is accomplished through SMS messaging rather than emails. We all know to look out for suspicious emails, but we aren’t used to looking out for spam texts. And some of these texts can look very official.

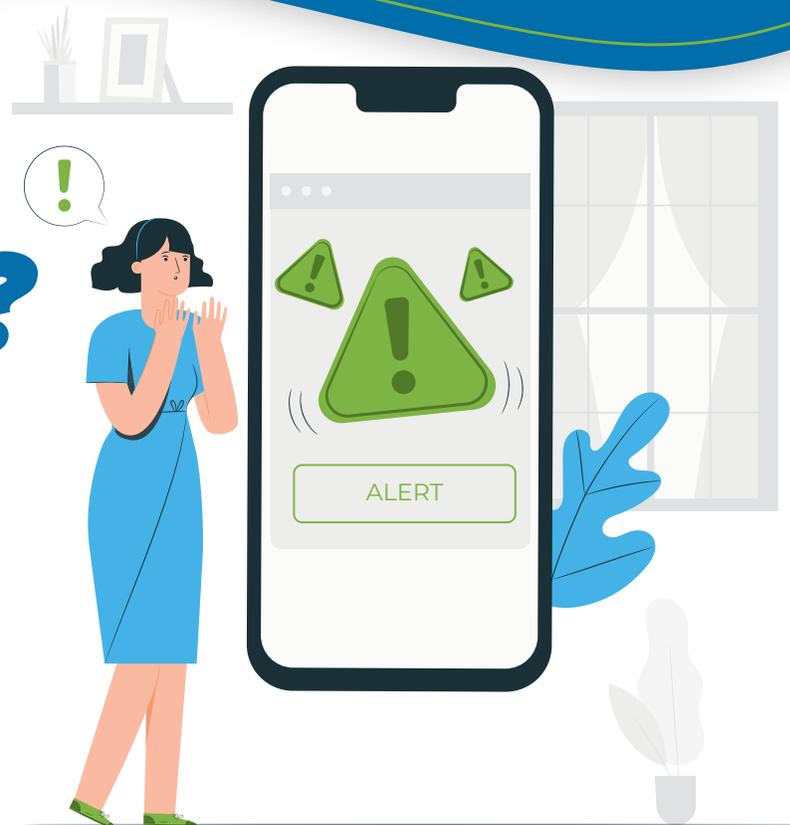
Scammers will often make these spam texts look like they are from your bank or credit union’s text alert system. Sometimes, these fake texts will warn you that your account has been locked or that you have won a giveaway — and all you have to do to fix your account issue or claim your prize is to click a link in the text. This link will actually take users to a malicious phishing page that is used to steal your information.

Sounds simple to spot right? But here’s the thing: so many people fall for this scam. Nowadays, we’re used to text alerts or receiving links on our phones that we rarely think twice about clicking them, especially when the number looks official. Plus, when we think there is an issue with our account, we want to fix it as soon as possible, causing us to tap on a link without much thought.

How to Avoid this Scam?

The simplest way is to avoid clicking links that you receive through a text message, even when they look official. If you receive a text alert from someone that looks like your financial institution claiming there is an issue with your account, **we recommend the following:**

- **Visit your closest Palmetto First branch** in person OR call us at **843-669-5619** to inquire about the legitimacy of the text message.



- **Do NOT use the phone number that the text was sent from.** Many scammers can “spoof” phone numbers, making them appear like real customer service numbers.
- Explain the text alert you received to your Palmetto First representative and **ask them to verify** if they sent the message.
- **Never exchange** any personal information such as your Social Security Number, credit card number, security question answers, or account number through a text message to an unknown recipient.

Spread the Word!

Now that you know what smishing is, make sure your friends and family also know how to stay protected and spot this scam by sending them this article! Stay safe out there, and always remember that you can come to Palmetto First for help!

SOURCES:

cyware.com/news/smishing-and-phishing-whats-the-difference-between-them-4f55d408/

wpxi.com/news/local/officials-warn-new-phishing-scam-get-bank-information/Z55R6ZMXLZEYROGU2JCSHP4VA4

NEW!

Announcing the Palmetto First Round-Up Savings Program!

Beginning **October 1st** you can make savings easy by just “Rounding-Up” your debit card purchases. For example, if you purchase lunch at Roger’s BBQ and it comes to \$12.50, we’ll round your purchase up to \$13.00 even and add that extra \$0.50 to your designated savings account.

If you want to take advantage of this, please sign up on our website and let us know that you want to start Rounding Up!

Santa Pause IS COMING TO TOWN.



Pause your loan payment in **November, December, or January** and have more money for the holidays.*

Ask Us How!

*There is a \$25 processing fee per loan to take advantage of this promotion. Of the \$25 fee, Palmetto First Federal Credit Union will donate a portion to a local charity. Choose to skip one payment November 2022–January 2023 during this promotion. If you have more than one loan, you can skip a payment for each. Fee may be deducted from your account, paid in cash, or by check. Fee cannot be added to the loan balance. Request and signed paperwork must be received ten (10) days prior to the due date. This offer is only available to members whose accounts—including all loan and deposit accounts—are in good standing with Palmetto First FCU. To be eligible, the account must be a minimum of six (6) months old with no payments over 30 days delinquent. Skipped payments will extend the duration of your loan. Interest continues to accrue on the loan during the month you skip your payment, resulting in higher total finance charges. All other terms in the original loan agreement remain the same. Mortgage and/or Home Equity loan payments are not eligible to be included in this promotion. All parties signing the original loan documents must also sign agreeing to the Skip-A-Pay. If your payment is made by Payroll Deduction, Direct Deposit, or by ACH draft from another institution, the payment will be deposited into your account. Skipped payment will not reflect negatively on your credit report or your loan payment history with us.

In Sympathy

The Board and Staff of Palmetto First Federal Credit Union, along with our members, would like to extend heartfelt sympathy to the friends and families of...

**William Ashley III, Waltraud Doris Edgerton,
Dequin Ellerbe, Wayne Stewart Greene,
William Stephen Morris, Jackie Williams**

...all valued members of your family and ours.

We regret that our updated system no longer notifies us of a member's passing.

We appreciate your assistance in bringing the names of those who have passed to our attention.

Holiday Closings

Columbus Day
Monday, October 10

Thanksgiving
November 24–25

Christmas (Obs)
Monday, December 26

New Year's (Obs)
Monday, January 2

Secret Numbers

There are several account numbers hidden within this newsletter. If you find yours, call the credit union and claim your **\$25 prize!**

Branch Locations

1722 Gregg Avenue
Florence, SC 29501

108 Pamplico Highway
Florence, SC 29505

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 3989
Florence, SC 29502

PALMETTO FIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



843.669.5619
PALMETTOFIRST.COM

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender.