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## **FRAUD ALERT – January 11, 2018**

It has come to the attention of The Alabama Department of Finance that scammers are sending correspondence to individuals asserting that the individual has been awarded benefits by the Department. **DO NOT** fall for these scams, and report them when they happen to you.

Citizens are reminded that if The Alabama Department of Finance has a legitimate reason to make contact with them regarding financial benefit, it will do so via official mail, and the letter will contain a point of contact's name and telephone number. If you receive a letter from the Department of Finance regarding a financial benefit or asking for money in any form, we highly encourage you to call the point of contact to confirm the details contained in the letter, or call the Department of Finance, Legal Division at (334) 242-4220. Please note that the Finance Department will **NOT** make demands for immediate payment via a debit card or other specific methods, or to threaten arrest for non-payment.

There are many different kinds of scams, but essentially criminal correspondence, claiming to represent The Alabama Department of Finance, or other government agencies, may threaten arrest or court action to trick taxpayers into making payments. The scammers may even offer the promise of a huge refund or advise they have sent letters that were returned undeliverable. Don't be fooled by these callers. The Alabama Department of Finance will not:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor call about benefits owed
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers
- Ask for personal information

Anyone receiving correspondence that includes any of these or other attempts to force payment or solicit personally identifiable information should:

- **NOT** give out any information;
- Hang up immediately; and
- Call the Alabama Department of Finance, Legal Division at (334) 242-4220