

# RISK ADVISORY

Office of the State Auditor | Brian S. Colón, Esq., CFE, State Auditor

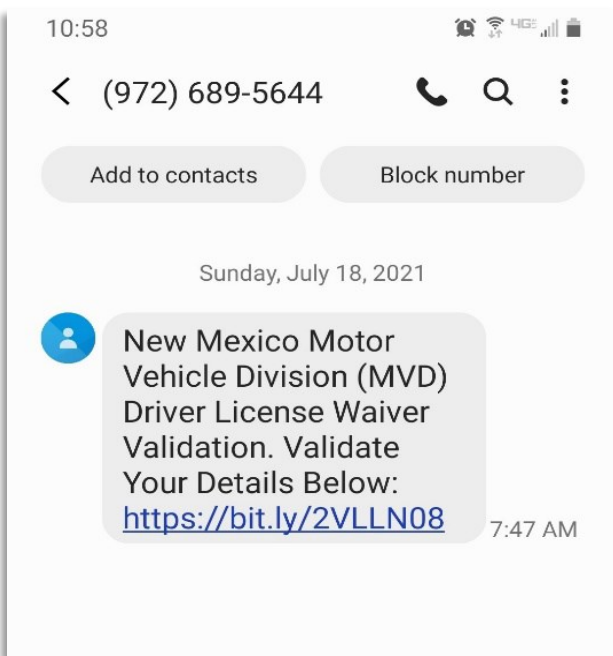


## FRAUD ALERT: “Smishing” Scam



The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) and the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) are warning against fraudsters perpetuating “smishing” scams to steal the identities of New Mexicans. “Smishing” is an identity theft scheme that uses cellphone text messaging technology to scam recipients. Cellular fraud, according to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is the “unauthorized use, tampering or manipulation of cellular phone or service”<sup>1</sup>, is a favored information harvesting method used by fraudsters.

Upon information received from the MVD, the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) is warning New Mexicans to be aware of fraudsters using text messages to scam residents. The MVD is reporting the text messages appear to be an attempt to steal social security numbers and other personal identifying information.



The fraudulent text messages began appearing recently from a 972-area code with the message “New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Driver License Waiver Validation. Validate your details below”.

These text messages do not come from the MVD and recipients should **not** respond. **Do not** click on the link and **do not** provide any personal information.

If you suspect that something may be wrong or you think you may have been a victim of this scam, please report the scam to the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General using the [Electronic Complaint Submission \(ECS\)](#) online. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#)

1: Cell Phone Fraud | Federal Communications Commission (fcc.gov)

**REPORT GOVERNMENTAL WASTE, FRAUD, OR ABUSE** To report potential instances of governmental waste, fraud or abuse contact the Office of the State Auditor. Reports may be made anonymously through our website at [www.saonm.org](http://www.saonm.org) or by calling 1-866-OSA-FRAUD. You may also speak to an investigator by calling 505-476-3800.

For further information or questions, on this or any Risk Alert issued by the GAO, please contact GAO Director, Stephanie W. Telles, at [Stephanie.Telles@osa.state.nm.us](mailto:Stephanie.Telles@osa.state.nm.us) or 505-476-3800