



LAW ALERT

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By: Jay B. Silverman, Esq.

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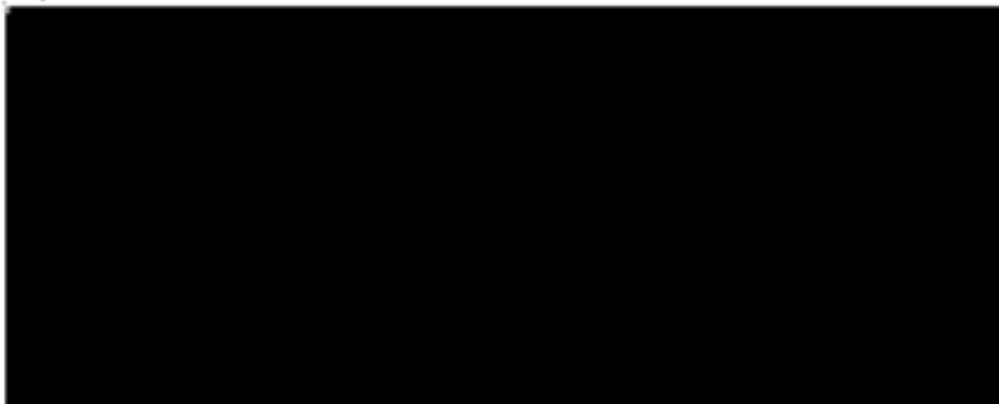
HHS OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS WARNS OF HIPAA POSTCARD SCAM

A recent alert from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) warns of postcards addressed to HIPAA Compliance Officers of healthcare providers and organizations disguised as official OCR communication claiming to be notices of a mandatory HIPAA compliance risk assessment. The postcards have a Washington, D.C. return address, and the sender uses the title “Secretary of Compliance, HIPAA Compliance Division.” The postcards prompt the recipient to visit a URL, call, or email to take immediate action on a HIPAA Risk Assessment but in actuality directs the individual to a non-governmental website marketing consulting services. The OCR advises that suspected incidents of individuals posing as federal law enforcement be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. According to the alert, communications purporting to be from the OCR can be verified by looking to see that they are from an official OCR address or email address. A list of OCR’s headquarters and regional offices can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html>.

Secretary of Compliance
HIPAA Compliance Division
1032 15th ST
Washington, DC 20005
ATTN: HIPAA COMPLIANCE OFFICER



Required Security
Risk Assessment:
Per (164.308(a)(1) –
MANDATORY
COMPLIANCE HIPAA
ENTITY



NOTICE: HIPAA violations cost your practice. The federal fines for noncompliance are based on the level of perceived negligence found within your organization at the time of the HIPAA violation. These fines can range from \$100 to \$50,000 per violation (or per record), with a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million per year for each violation. See Reverse for Instructions

For more information please contact:

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