



ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSEN

COMPLAINT ABOUT SCAM ON FACEBOOK PROMPTS INQUIRY BY ATTORNEY GENERAL

For Immediate Release

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HARTFORD – Attorney General George Jepsen is asking Facebook for information about its procedures for detecting and disabling fraudulent accounts following a complaint by a Milford legislator that her identity was misused in a scam that solicited her friends for money.

Rep. Kim Rose, D-118th District, said the social media site did not respond quickly to take the site down after repeated complaints that her name and photograph were being used without her permission in solicitation of money.

Jepsen wrote a letter to Facebook Monday saying his office would investigate “because of the real and immediate danger of financial fraud and identity theft associated with this scam.”

Jepsen asked the company for information about the number of complaints it had received in the last 18 months about fraudulent or “hacked” accounts; its policies and procedures for responding to complaints and how long it took them to do so and information about any safeguards in place to detect and disable fake or “hacked” Facebook accounts.

“My hope is to work cooperatively with Facebook to ensure that its users in Connecticut and elsewhere are provided adequate security and receive quick and effective responses when security breaches occur,” Jepsen said.

Facebook was asked to provide the information to the Office of the Attorney General by Feb. 22.

Jepsen said Rep. Rose’s complaint followed other public reports of security lapses resulting in the hacking of private Facebook pages, including the pages of Facebook’s own chief executive.

“I’m pleased that the Attorney General has recognized the significance of this matter for consumers and has worked so quickly to get some answers,” said Rep. Rose. “I’m hopeful this action will help to protect other consumers from identity theft in the future.”

Assistant Attorney General Matthew Fitzsimmons and Special Counsel Robert Clark are assisting Jepsen in this matter.

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