



## Crime Watch Bulletin

*The information contained in this Crime Watch Bulletin is intended to keep you informed on recent activity on or around the campus of Butler University.*

*Issued: Feb. 27, 2013, by Detective Bruce Allee*

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### **Internet Check Scam Targeting College Students**

All Butler students need to be aware of a growing trend involving students who advertise their services to the community. Examples could be a student offering math or language tutoring, or a student offering babysitting or nanny services.

The scam starts with an email from a person extremely interested in your services. Usually the contact person claims that they are currently working outside of the country and are making the arrangements for a son or daughter who lives nearby the University. Shortly after the contact agrees to terms of service with the student, a large check will arrive, and the contact will ask the student to quickly deposit it into their personal bank account.

They then direct the student to keep a set amount, (usually \$200-\$300), and to give the rest of the money to a “family member” who lives in Indianapolis. The “family member” will then make the weekly or monthly payments for the student’s services.

When the student cashes the check, withdraws the cash from their personal account, and pays the “family member,” the scam has been completed.

The check turns out to be fraudulent, and **the student becomes responsible to their bank for the full amount of the check** (commonly in the \$2,000-\$3,000 range).

If you are contacted in a similar manner to this:

- Contact Butler University Police immediately with as much information as possible at 940-9999.
- Keep all emails, voicemails, and letters of correspondence.
- Preserve any checks sent to you and give them to the University Police officer.
- **Never agree to meet anyone connected to the scam in person.**

Your personal safety is our highest concern. Internet scams have become more sophisticated and pervasive. If something seems too good to be true, trust your instincts and contact us. We may not be able to pursue criminal charges in a matter, but we can offer advice and do an initial investigation to better protect you. If you have already been approached in a similar manner, please contact **Detective Bruce Allee** at [bballee@butler.edu](mailto:bballee@butler.edu).

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This **Timely Warning** is intended to make the campus community aware of a specific incident or increase in criminal activity. Timely Warnings may be posted on the University Police department’s website only or emailed to the campus community. Timely Warnings are meant to fulfill the requirement of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

**Do you receive Butler emergency notifications?** Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up for DawgAlert to receive important emergency notifications via emails, text messages, or phone calls. Visit [www.Butler.edu/BUPD](http://www.Butler.edu/BUPD) for the latest **Timely Warnings** and to subscribe to the RSS feed. If you would like to subscribe to the University Police Dawg Watch Daily Crime Log, email Lindsey Birt at [lbirt@butler.edu](mailto:lbirt@butler.edu) in the Department of Public Safety.

*Butler University Police dispatch may be reached 24 hours a day at 940-9396.*

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