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For Immediate Release

State Computer Burglar Suspected of Contacting Human Services Department Clients

HSD warns clients to never share personal information with anyone over the phone.

Santa Fe, June 16, 2006 – A Human Services Department (HSD) client from the Northeast Bernalillo County Income Support Division (ISD) office was contacted by phone this morning from a person who claimed to be an HSD employee. The client was asked to share bank account information with the caller. “The client did the right thing and did not share any personal information. HSD employees would never request this sort of data from a client over the phone and we would like to remind all of our clients to never, ever share any personal information with someone who calls,” said Pamela Hyde, Human Services Department Secretary.

Early Wednesday morning a state computer containing personal information about clients and employees was stolen from the Northeast Bernalillo County ISD office in Albuquerque. Although the computer is password protected, it appears the burglar was able to access the information on the computer and may now be attempting to contact clients.

HSD is mailing out notices to 12,000 clients from the Northeast Bernalillo County ISD office warning them of the computer theft, the potential for their personal information to be at risk, and offering guidance if they are contacted by the burglar. “We would like any client who suspects the burglar has contacted them and is trying to get personal information from them to immediately contact the Albuquerque Police Department and the Human Services Department at 505-222-9627,” said Hyde.

Anyone with information that could help in the investigation of the burglary is urged to call the Albuquerque Police at 242-COPS.

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