

## TIP OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2009

### **BEWARE: YOU HAVE A RELATIVE IN DISTRESS!**

Early one morning you receive a distressing email ostensibly from your dear cousin, Matilda, who reported that she is presently in New York and has been robbed of her handbag with everything she owned in it. Matilda says she is in dire need of \$1500 urgently to be able to return home as quickly as possible. She needs your help!

Don't fall for this or similar scams which have been making the rounds lately. It turns out that cousin Matilda never went to New York and is safe in her home out east!

#### **If you should receive such an e-mail request:-**

1. Check that your cousin (or other) is indeed safe and this is only an attempt to trick you out of your hard earned funds; then
2. If your e-mail address was obtained fraudulently,

Secure a copy of the fraud e-mail or (letter) requesting funds.

Telephone/e-mail all your contacts to advise them of the fraud and to let them know you are OK!

Immediately close out that e-mail address and establish a new one.

Inform the police.

Do a file note in the event you need to mount a defense at a later date.

This will create a lot of work for you, but it needs to be done to protect your privacy as well as that of your list of contacts.

The above is a common case of "phishing." It is an attempt to steal your money as well as your personal information which may be used in further criminal activity.

Feel free to email us at [dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs](mailto:dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs)