



**Bob Ferguson**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 4, 2022

TO: All vendors potentially conducting business with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

FROM: Rick Griffith, **Chief Information Officer**  
Information Services Division

SUBJECT: Vendor Education – Email Scam and Phishing Prevention

Email scams and online phishing attempts continue to increase in frequency. We are aware of recent attempts to mislead vendors who we conduct business with. We interpret these as attempts to initiate a scam on our vendors by using a misleading domain name to send emails that appear to come from the Office of the Attorney General.

Our office takes quick action if we learn about scam or phishing attempts, including having any misleading domain address suspended by the domain registration service and posting and/or sending reminders, such as this letter, to vendors conducting business with our office for awareness.

Following industry-standard cybersecurity best practices, we recommend your organization carefully review correspondence to ensure the communication is legitimate and not a phishing attempt.

Best practices to ensure your cybersecurity safety include the following:

- ✓ Ensure email correspondence from our office includes the proper domain of @atg.wa.gov. Scammers will “spoof” an address just by changing a single letter in the domain name.
- ✓ Ensure attachments from our office are delivered electronically from a proper domain of @atg.wa.gov. Do not open an attachment from a domain similar to ours if there is suspicion of a phishing attempt. Do not click on a link in an email or attachment if suspicious.

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- ✓ Do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns about emails relating to this office or our procurement or contracts.

For information on how phishing works, what your organization can do for prevention and how to report other occurrences, visit the Federal Trade Commission website for additional details.

<https://www.ftc.gov/business-guidance/small-businesses/cybersecurity/phishing>

Thank you for your partnership in ensuring our business email correspondence remains safe.