Scam Alert: Fake USPTO "Trademark Verification" Communications Targeting Trademark Applicants

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Publications

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There have been reports of law firms and applicants receiving a wave of fraudulent emails and even text messages impersonating the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). These communications target trademark applicants with urgent demands for a "mandatory verification appointment" phone call with a fake examining attorney. They look convincing because scammers pull real application data (serial numbers, owner names, attorney addresses) from the USPTO's publicly available Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) database.

If you receive an email or text like this, do not respond and do not call the number provided. Even a reply telling the sender to stop confirms that your email address is active and monitored, which is often half of what the scammer is after. Delete the message and block the sender.

How to Spot the Scam

- **Wrong email domain:** Legitimate USPTO emails come from **@uspto.gov**. Recent scam emails used domains like **@lawoffice119.com** and **@uspto-trademark-gov.live.** Scammers rotate domains constantly, so the address you see may differ, but any non-@uspto.gov sender is a red flag.
- **"Mandatory verification appointment":** The USPTO does not schedule mandatory phone verification calls for trademark applications. Examination is conducted through written Office Actions filed and responded to via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).
- **Threats of immediate abandonment:** The scam emails warn that missing the call will result in abandonment (i.e., the loss of federal trademark protection). In reality, USPTO deadlines are communicated in writing and allow three to six months for a

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response.

- **"Reserving the mark with all Secretary of State(s)":** This language has no basis in trademark law. Federal registration through the USPTO is entirely separate from state business filings.
- **"Monetary commitment" or payment solicitation:** The goal of the scam call is likely to extract payment for a fabricated fee. The USPTO collects fees electronically through TEAS, not over the phone.
- **Poor grammar and formatting:** Run-on sentences, inconsistent formatting, and awkward phrasing are common across these emails.

Quick Reference

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What to Do

- Do not respond in any way — not to dispute the message, not to tell the sender to stop, and not to provide any information. Any reply, however brief or hostile, confirms that your address is active and may invite further contact or targeting.
- Delete the message and block the sender.
- Forward the email to your trademark attorney to confirm whether any real USPTO action is pending.
- Check your application status directly at **uspto.gov**.
- Report the scam to the USPTO at **TMScams@uspto.gov**. More information: **uspto.gov/trademarks/protect/scam-prevention**.

If you have questions about a suspicious communication related to your trademark application, please contact the author or any member of the firm's Trademark team.

This advisory is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

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