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*****SCAM ALERT*****SCAM ALERT*****SCAM ALERT*****

Scammers Target Deceased PERSI Member's Spouse

Boise, Idaho – May 16, 2016

The Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) is warning its members and their families to be on the lookout for scam artists claiming to represent PERSI. The scammers contacted the spouse of a recently deceased retiree, claiming that the deceased spouse had missed payments on a life insurance policy. They told the surviving spouse that, in order to receive the insurance policy payout, she needed to load a large amount of money onto several "pre-paid" debit cards and drop the cards into the mail. Fortunately, the call unexpectedly disconnected, and the spouse immediately contacted PERSI before the perpetrators could make things worse. It is unclear exactly how the scammers are choosing their targets, or if there are additional victims. PERSI wants its members and their families to be aware of this scam, and to take whatever steps necessary to stay protected from this or other scams. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- PERSI will NEVER initiate a call to you on the telephone asking for money, personal identification numbers, or account numbers. Never give personal information or money to anyone unless you are absolutely certain you know who they really are.
- If someone does call you directly, claiming to represent PERSI, hang up and call the PERSI Answer Center immediately at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.
- If you suspect someone is intercepting your mail, report it to your postal carrier. Know when the mail is delivered and alert your postal carrier if you've noticed any strange behavior around your mailbox. Ask if he or she knows of any problems in your area, and inquire about a more secure set-up if he or she voices concern.

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