**REPORT: Instagram Fraud Awareness**

**Date: June 11, 2023**

**Subject:** Instagram Fraud Alert - Protecting Users from Scammers

**Introduction:**

Scammers continuously devise new techniques to deceive users, and one such method involves targeting Instagram users. Instagram, being a highly popular social media platform, is vulnerable to fraudulent activities. This report aims to raise awareness about the Instagram fraud scheme, where hackers compromise user accounts to deceive others and obtain personal information or financial gain.

**Description of the Fraud:**

In this Instagram fraud scheme, hackers gain unauthorized access to user accounts and exploit the trust between users and their common friends. The hacker, posing as the compromised user, sends a message to a common friend seeking urgent help or financial assistance. The message typically mentions a family member in the hospital and requests a specific amount of money to be sent to a provided phone number.

Unaware that their friend's account has been hacked, the recipient of the message may feel compelled to help and send money. Unfortunately, this leads to the hacker obtaining the recipient's personal information and banking details, putting them at risk of further exploitation.

**Preventive Measures and Reporting:**

To safeguard against falling victim to this Instagram fraud, users must remain vigilant and take immediate action upon encountering suspicious messages. Here are some recommended steps to follow:

1. Do not respond immediately: When receiving such a message, refrain from replying or taking immediate action. Take a moment to evaluate the situation and consider the likelihood of it being a fraudulent attempt.

2. Report to Instagram: Notify Instagram about the compromised account by reporting it through their platform. This allows Instagram to investigate and take appropriate action, such as disabling the fraudulent account.

3. Block the compromised account: Prevent any further communication with the hacker by blocking the compromised account. This limits their ability to deceive others through your account.

4. Inform common friends: Reach out to your common friends and inform them about the account compromise. Advise them not to respond to any messages or click on any links sent from the compromised account.

**Methods of Reporting:**

To report the Instagram fraud to the relevant authorities, users have several options:

1. Online reporting: Utilize the official website of the cybercrime department, cybercrime.gov.in, to report the fraud online. Follow the provided procedure to ensure that the incident is documented and investigated properly. Alternatively, users can report the fraud directly through Instagram, enabling the platform to take swift action.

2. Physical reporting: Users can also report the fraud to the cybercrime department through physical means. The designated helpline number for reporting cybercrime in India is 155260. This allows users to provide essential details and seek guidance on further steps to take.

**Conclusion:**

The Instagram fraud scheme is an ongoing threat that preys on users' trust and goodwill. By following the preventive measures outlined in this report and promptly reporting any suspicious activity, users can protect themselves and their friends from falling victim to such scams.

Remember: Be cautious, stay aware, and promptly report any fraudulent activity to the appropriate authorities. Together, we can create a safer online environment.

Stay safe and vigilant,

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