

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM CAPSTONE RESEARCH

April, 2018

Capstone Research, Inc. has become aware of a fraudulent phishing scam being sent to the general public under the Capstone name. There are several variants of the scam purporting to offer payments for completing a 'Secret Shopper' study. After replying, the recipient receives an envelope with a Cashier's Check made out to them from TDECU Credit Union along with the assignment instructions. (Note that the cashier check may originate from other institutions as well.)

**THIS CHECK IS FRADULENT! DO NOT DEPOSIT THIS CHECK!**

Recipients are asked to deposit the check into their account and then make a wire transfer back to them via a Walmart Money Transfer for the amount of the deposit less a \$200 fee as your payment.

If you deposit or cash this fraudulent check, you will be responsible for the entire amount of the check plus bank fees.

Capstone Research, Inc. does not offer 'Secret Shopper' opportunities to the general public. 'Secret Shoppers' employed by CRI have been thoroughly instructed and trained in the proper procedures to complete their assignments. If you would like apply to become a 'Secret Shopper', please visit our CAREERS page and submit your information.

If you have already received such communications, you are advised to terminate all further contact with the scammers, and in the event that you have sent them funds, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately. You can also file a complaint with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), through the following website: <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. If the envelope was sent by US Mail, contact the US post office mail fraud division.