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**WICHITA, KAN.** – The District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division is warning about emails that contain the words “notice to appear in court.” The email claims a court notice is in an attached file. The email reads: “The copy of the court notice is attached to this letter. Please read it thoroughly. Truly Yours, Clerk to the Court, Jessica Mason.”

The email is not an official court message. There is no generic “Clerk to the Court” in Sedgwick County. When a recipient opens the attached zip.file, an .exe file is found inside. If the .exe file is opened, malware may be installed on the computer. Once installed, the malware can download and install further malware.

Malware is short for “malicious software.” Malware contains viruses and spyware. When installed on a computer, phone or mobile device, the malware can cause the device to crash. Malware could be used to monitor and control online activity. Criminals use malware to steal personal information.

The “notice to appear” email has been reported across the country with different clerk names, hearing dates, specified city and origin. One complaint has been received by the Consumer Protection Division.

The Consumer Protection Division suggests:

- Keep your security software up to date.
- Don’t open an email attachment unless you know who sent it and what it is.
- Download and install software only from websites you know and trust.
- Make sure your browser security setting is high enough to detect unauthorized downloads.

If you have further questions about an email, contact the District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division at 316-660-3653. Another resource is the Federal Trade Commission [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

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