

## **Cell Phone Self-Defense Identity Theft**

This story came across the web, March 2008:

**Subject: Be careful how you list names on your cell phone.**

This lady has changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc. was stolen. Twenty (20) minutes later, when she called her husband from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says 'I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago.' When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn.

The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text 'hubby' in the contact list and got hold of the PIN number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from the bank account.

**Moral of the lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list.**

And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked thru texts, confirm by calling back. Also, when you're being text by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet 'family and friends' who text you.

They (the bad guys) could be setting you up to be burglarized, or worse.