

# **Public Service Announcement!!!—Cleveland County Government Emails are County Government Hacked!!! Do NOT open emails from County Employees that request you to “Docu-Sign” Documents!!! Delete that email immediately!!! Report by Robert A. Williams**

Today at 2:11 PM I received an email that had as a subject: Report #0737633. The email sender was noted as Sherry Lavender. The email stated that a document I had requested was ready for me and that I had to sign for the document through “Docu-Sign.”

I immediately smelled a rat.

I called the County Manager’s Office and spoke to April Crofts. I asked April if there was a Cleveland County employee named Sherry Lavender? April confirmed there was a Sherry Lavender that worked in the “Tax” Department. My second question to April was what would Sherry Lavender be sending me a document that required signing through some sort of Docu-Sign app?

April immediately said, **don’t open that email**. Sherry Lavender has had her email address hacked and the county IT Departments

says not to open that email.

I said to April, "Thank you" and immediately deleted that email.

April did not tell me if any other county email addresses were hacked. But I am assuming that all county emails are suspect until further notice.

I would suggest that anybody receiving a suspicious email from a Cleveland County employee and official, DO NOT open that email. Call the person that sent it. Call 704-484-4800 and ask April to connect you with the person sending you that suspicious email. Otherwise, YOU may get hacked too.

**Or worse yet. You might find your bank account unfairly garnished like Mr. Willie Green!!!**