

Marion Police warn of scam gaining popularity

There is a new scam going. A resident received an anonymous letter claiming the writer has evidence about a secret that the resident allegedly was hiding from his wife and everyone else. The writer demands that \$6,500 be sent in the form of a Bitcoin to a specific Bitcoin address as a “confidentiality fee.”

If you receive a letter such as this it is most likely a scam and can be ignored, unless you really do have secrets that you are hiding. In that case you need to decide if those secrets are worth \$6,500. Seriously though, a quick internet search will show that this scam is spreading. It is only a matter of time before more residents receive this letter. Here is a copy of the letter, the victim name has been deleted of course.

Hello I'm going to cut to the chase. I know about the secret you are keeping from your wife and everyone else. More importantly, I have *evidence* of what you have been hiding. I won't go into the specifics here in case your wife intercepts this, but you know what I am talking about.

You don't know me personally and nobody hired me to look into you. Nor did I go out looking to burn you. It is just your bad luck that I stumbled across your misadventures while working a job around Marion. I then put in more time than I probably should have looking into your life. Frankly, I am ready to forget all about you and let you get on with your life. And I am going to give you two options that will accomplish that very thing. Those two options are to either ignore this letter, or simply pay me \$6,500. Let's examine those two options in more detail.

Option 1 is to ignore this letter. Let me tell you what will happen if you choose this path. I will take this evidence and send it to your wife. And as insurance against you intercepting it before your wife gets it, I will also send copies to her friends and family. So, even if you decide to come clean with your wife, it won't protect her from the humiliation she will feel when her friends and family find out your sordid details from me.

Option 2 is to pay me \$6,500. We'll call this my "confidentiality fee". Now let me tell you what happens if you choose this path. Your secret remains your secret. You go on with your life as though none of this ever happened. Though you may want to do a better job at keeping your misdeeds secret in the future.

At this point you may be thinking, "I'll just go to the cops." Which is why I have taken steps to ensure this letter cannot be traced back to me. So that won't help, and it won't stop the evidence from destroying your life. I'm not looking to break your bank. I just want to be compensated for the time I put into investigating you. \$6,500 will close the books on that.

Let's assume you have decided to make all this go away and pay me the confidentiality fee. In keeping with my strategy to not go to jail, we will not meet in person and there will be no physical exchange of cash. You will pay me anonymously using bitcoin. If you want me to keep your secret, then send \$6,500 in BITCOIN to the *Receiving Bitcoin Address* listed below. **Payment MUST be received within 10 days of the post marked date on this letter's envelope.** If you are not familiar with bitcoin, attached is a "How-To" guide. You will need the below two pieces of information when referencing the guide.

Required Amount: \$6,500

Receiving Bitcoin Address:

14yB3mavjHan4PaCqrKVCC9ds8MV93evf9

Tell no one what you will be using the bitcoin for or they may not give it to you. The procedure to obtain bitcoin can take a day or two so do not put it off. Again, **payment must be received within 10 days of this letter's post marked date.** If I don't receive the bitcoin by the deadline, I will go ahead and release the evidence to everyone. If you go that route, then the least you could do is tell your wife so she can come up with an excuse to prepare her friends and family before they find out. The clock is ticking.