

VERIFICATION PHRASE PROTOCOL

ESTABLISH A PRIVATE PHRASE FOR EMERGENCY CALLS, IMPERSONATION ATTEMPTS, FAMILY REQUESTS, AND DEEPPAKE DEFENSE.

A VERIFICATION PHRASE IS A PRE-ARRANGED, EASY-TO-REMEMBER SECRET USED TO AUTHENTICATE THE IDENTITY OF SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW. IT IS LOW-TECH, HARD TO FAKE CONSISTENTLY, AND CAN STOP SOPHISTICATED SOCIAL ENGINEERING AND AI-POWERED ATTACKS.



PRINCIPLE

TRUST, BUT
VERIFY USING
A CHANNEL
AND METHOD
ADVERSARIES
CANNOT
EASILY REPLICATE.

THREATS ADDRESSED



EMERGENCY CALLS
Verify the caller is really you during high-stress, time-sensitive situations.



IMPERSONATION ATTEMPTS
Confirm identity when someone claims to be you—especially over voice or text.



FAMILY REQUESTS
Prevent fraudsters from leveraging emotional manipulation to extract money or sensitive information.



DEEPPAKE DEFENSE
Add a human-verifiable factor that AI voice or video cannot reliably reproduce.

PROTOCOL OVERVIEW

- 1 ESTABLISH PRIVATELY**
Create the phrase in-person or via a secure channel. Do not use email, SMS, or unsecured calls.
- 2 KEEP IT SHORT & DISTINCT**
Use 3–6 random words. Avoid song lyrics, movie quotes, or personal details.
- 3 ROTATE PERIODICALLY**
Change the phrase on a set schedule or after a significant security event.
- 4 USE CHALLENGE-RESPONSE**
Do not volunteer the phrase. Require the caller to respond to a prompt.
- 5 VERIFY BEFORE ACTION**
Do not act on requests—no matter how urgent—until the phrase is verified.
- 6 NEVER RECORD OR STORE**
Memorize only. Written or digital copies create unnecessary risk.

PRO TIP
Combine the phrase check with other context (tone, timing, and details only they would know) for stronger verification.

CREATING A STRONG PHRASE

RECOMMENDED STRUCTURE

NOUN + VERB + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

EXAMPLES: RAVEN | DRIFT | SILENT | HARBOR

GUIDELINES

- ✓ Use uncommon word combinations
- ✓ Avoid personal references and names
- ✓ Easy to say, hard to guess
- ✓ Change every 90–180 days
- ✓ Never share outside trusted circle
- ✓ Use the same phrase across channels

CHALLENGE-RESPONSE RULES

- Use a prompt the other person expects but attackers won't.
- Examples: "What's the third watch?", "Which fox hums low?", "Second drift, then?"
- Caller must answer correctly before any action is taken.

WEAK EXAMPLES

- "ILOVEYOU"
- "PASSWORD123"
- Song lyrics or famous quotes
- Names, birthdays, anniversaries
- Anything found in < 20 minutes of OSINT

STRONG EXAMPLES

- "BROKEN KITE WINTER GLASS"
- "MERCURY RIDES BLACK SAND"
- "ORCHID BURNS AFTER RAIN"
- "SABLE FOX HUMS LOW"

WHEN TO ROTATE

- On a fixed schedule (every 90–180 days)
- After a security incident or data breach
- After travel to high-risk environments
- When you suspect compromise
- When a trusted party leaves your circle

FAILURE TRIGGERS

- Wrong or hesitant response
- Caller refuses or dodges the prompt
- Emotional pressure to skip verification
- Requests for secrecy or urgency
- Channel or number mismatch

IMPLEMENTATION SCENARIOS

EMERGENCY VOICE CALL

Use when receiving an unexpected call claiming to be you.

YOU:
"What's the status?"
CALLER:
"RAVEN DRIFT
SILENT HARBOR."
VERIFIED ✓

FAMILY MONEY REQUEST

Use before fulfilling any financial or sensitive request.

YOU:
"Remind me of the winter trip."
CALLER:
"ORCHID BURNS
AFTER RAIN."
VERIFIED ✓

IMPERSONATION CHECK

Use when someone claims to be you.

YOU:
"Who's the third watch?"
CALLER:
"SABLE FOX
HUMS LOW."
VERIFIED ✓

DEEPPAKE DEFENSE

Use additional real-time challenge beyond static verification.

YOU:
"Say the phrase, then spell 'harbor' backwards."
CALLER:
"ROBRAH."
VERIFIED ✓

OPERATIONAL NOTES

- ▶ Always verify through a separate channel when possible.
- ▶ Do not confirm the phrase out loud where it can be overheard.
- ▶ Teach all trusted contacts the protocol and their role.
- ▶ A compromised phrase is still better than no verification at all.
- ▶ Layer with additional verification for high-risk operations.

QUICK REFERENCE CARD

PHRASE LENGTH	3–6 WORDS
ROTATION	EVERY 90–180 DAYS
SHARING	IN-PERSON / SECURE ONLY
STORAGE	MEMORIZE ONLY
USE	CHALLENGE-RESPONSE
PURPOSE	VERIFY BEFORE YOU TRUST

