

SPOTLIGHT: JOB SCAMS

SCAMMERS TRY TO LOOK LIKE LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES

Fake job listings can appear anywhere: a phishing email, an advertisement on social media or a bogus listing on a real job website. They often use keywords like “work-from-home”, “quick money” or “unlimited earning potential.” Scammers may even conduct fake interviews. The end goal is to **obtain your personal information or money**. To appear real, the fraudsters send victims an employment contract to sign and request info like your driver’s license number, Social Security number and/or financial information.

COMMON JOB SCAM RED FLAGS

- Message through social media requesting an interview.
- Emails that come from a weird looking address.
- Upfront fees or personal/financial information required.
- Requests payment to submit an application, for a background check, employee processing fees or for equipment needed to start the job.
- Grammatical or spelling errors.
- Claims to hire very quickly. They may use words like “immediately” or “in the coming days.”
- It seems too good to be true. There may be wild success stories.
- Celebrity endorsements.

TIPS TO AVOID JOB SCAMS

- **Search online.** Look up the name of the company or the person who’s hiring you, plus the words “scam,” “review,” or “complaint.” See if others say they’ve been scammed by that company or person. No complaints? It doesn’t guarantee that a company is honest, but complaints can tip you off to possible problems.
- **Talk to someone you trust.** Describe the offer to them. What do they think? This also helps give you vital time to think about the offer.
- **Don’t pay for the promise of a job.** Honest employers will never ask you to pay up front for training, background checks or certifications. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- **Never bank on a “cleared” check.** No honest potential employer will ever send you a check to deposit and then tell you to send part of the money to someone else, or buy gift cards with it. That’s a fake check scam. The check will bounce, and the bank will want you to repay the amount of the fake check.

For more information on protecting yourself from scams, visit www.consumer.sc.gov and click “Identity Theft/Scams.”



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