EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

While looking for employment it is important to be aware that not all opportunities are what they seem. There are a variety of job scams each with the potential of causing serious harm. It is of value to be aware of the types of traps and proceed with caution for any unusual offer.

**Common Scams**

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<tr>
<th>Scam</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>How to avoid</th>
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<td>Cash and product forwarding</td>
<td>Be wary of any job where your sole responsibility is to buy an item and mail it to the employer. In these instances the fraudster will send you a cheque to deposit so you can purchase items and mail them away. This cheque will either bounce or is stolen and the money you spent will come out of your account.</td>
<td>Be extremely cautious doing business deals for anyone you haven’t met in person.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fake job offer</td>
<td>A fraudulent company will offer a fake job to get money or personal information from you. To secure the job they will request money for a work Visa, travel arrangements, etc. or they will request your SIN, credit card, or banking details.</td>
<td>Do your research on any company before giving them your personal information. Don’t give personal information until you have an offer in writing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bogus employment agency</td>
<td>You are asked to pay an administration fee for the services of an employment agency who will guarantee they will find you a job. After they get your money you never hear from them again.</td>
<td>Don’t pay any employment agency for their services. Employment agencies charge employers for finding them a suitable candidate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-level marketing</td>
<td>A company requires you to purchase what you are selling and find your own leads. You will be paid solely on commission and will be encouraged to have your leads sell the product as well.</td>
<td>Don’t give an employer any money upfront.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over payment</td>
<td>Your new employer says they accidentally paid you 4 times the salary and need you to wire them the difference when you get the cheque. Their cheque will bounce when you cash it.</td>
<td>Be extremely cautious sending any money to an employer.</td>
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**10 Signs A Job May Be Too Good To Be True**

1. Their correspondence has many spelling and grammatical errors
2. The employer does not have a company branded email address
3. The position appears to be different from what was initially advertised
4. You never meet the employer face-to-face
5. You are pushed for money or personal information
6. The opportunity seems too good to be true – e.g. The salary is too high, no experience necessary, or you are hired on the spot
7. If you are contacted via text message or instant messaging
8. You can’t find much information on the company
9. The employer contacts you at odd hours
10. The job appears on an online banner ad… yeah, that is a very bad sign

Victims

If you suspect that you may be a victim of any of these scams notify the police immediately. If you have given out banking or credit card details notify your bank immediately. You may be advised to cancel your credit card or get a new chequing account number. If you are worried that your SIN may be compromised contact Service Canada immediately and consider running a credit report on yourself.

If the job was located through a job posting board notify the people in charge of the scam. This will hopefully prevent future scams.

Tips

- Before you apply to a position do extensive research on the company using trusted sites such as Better Business Bureau
- If you aren’t comfortable doing something don’t do it, or seek a second opinion
- Don’t be afraid to ask an employer for references
- Research the company using trusted sites such as Better Business Bureau
- Don’t forget about your physical safety. If your interview location is at a weird hour or location be sure to bring a friend.

““If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.””

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