



Be on Guard against Solicitations Offering Government Assistance and Labor Law Posters

From the Office of Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson

The Minnesota Attorney General's Office urges organizations and businesses to be on guard against telephone and mail solicitations offering to provide assistance in connection with government programs or regulations in exchange for payment.

Solicitations for Government-Required Labor Law Posters

Some organizations have complained that unscrupulous organizations have attempted to sell them government posters, which are required by State and federal law, even though such materials can be obtained for free from the appropriate government agency. Such solicitations may include official-looking seals or urgent "warnings" indicating that a law requires organizations to buy posters to comply with State or federal regulations. Businesses and other organizations need not pay private companies to receive such materials. Organizations may obtain required State labor law posters by contacting the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry, Labor Standards Division as follows:

IPC Poster Requests

Minnesota Department of Labor and Standards
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4307
(651) 284-5042 or 1-800-342-5354
www.doli.state.mn.us/posters.html

Organizations may obtain required federal labor law posters by contacting the United States Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as follows:

U.S. Department of Labor
Wage and Hour Division
220 South Second Street, Room 106
Minneapolis, MN 55401
1-866-487-9243

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Communications and Legislative Affairs
1801 L Street N.W., Room 9405
Washington, D.C. 20507
1-800-669-3362

Government Grant Assistance Solicitations

Businesses, organizations, and individuals have also been targeted by scams offering to assist them in obtaining large amounts of government money in exchange for monetary payments. Businesses that send money to these programs only receive "informational booklets" containing minimal assistance, if they receive anything at all.

Although there are a variety of sources within the government and private sector that offer grants to eligible applicants, organizations do not need to enlist the services of a separate company to learn about such funding sources. The application procedures for a wide variety of public and private grants can be obtained free of charge. Organizations should never give their bank account information to unknown telemarketers.

Since many of its departments offer grants, the federal government has created Grants.gov as a resource for parties seeking information about grants. Grants.gov is managed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and may be contacted as follows:

Grants.gov Program Management Office
200 Independence Avenue SW
HHH Building, Room 739F
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-518-4726
www.grants.gov

Organizations may also contact the United States General Services Administration's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at: www.cfda.gov.

For more information, contact the Minnesota Attorney General's Office as follows:

Office of Minnesota Attorney General

Lori Swanson

1400 Bremer Tower

445 Minnesota Street

St. Paul, MN 55101

(651) 296-3353 or 1-800-657-3787

TTY: (651) 297-7206 or 1-800-366-4812

www.ag.state.mn.us

