



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 download required State labor law posters or order them online from the website of the Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry, Labor Standards Division at the following URL:

www.dli.mn.gov/l/posters.asp

They can also order the posters by phone or email as follows:

Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry Poster Requests

443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4307
(651) 284-5005 or (800) 342-5354
dli.post@state.mn.us

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

U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division

Tri-Tech Center, Suite 920
331 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(866) 487-9243

Posters available at:

www.dol.gov/general/topics/posters

National Labor Relations Board

Region 18
212 3rd Avenue South, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2221
Phone: (612) 348-1757

Posters available at:

www.nlrb.gov/poster

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Minneapolis Area Office
Towle Building
330 South Second Avenue, Suite 720
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(800) 669-4000

Posters available at:

www1.eeoc.gov/employers/poster.cfm

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

HHH Building, Room 739F
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20201
(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

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445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area)
(800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities)
TTY: (651) 297-7206 or (800) 366-4812
www.ag.state.mn.us

