



Employment Scams

Graduates Cautioned to Avoid Online Job Scams

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Graduation time is upon us, a time when many college and high school graduates will enter the world of work. Those that have not yet lined up a job are likely to use Internet resources to pursue job leads. Online job searches can be an efficient and productive way to pursue employment. The Better Business Bureau cautions job seekers, however, to avoid becoming targets for scam artists eager to take advantage of their inexperience.

Following is a description of some of the more common online job scams.

[The payment-forwarding or payment-transfer scams](#)

In this scenario, the con artist pretends to be an employer. He uses a job ad or information from a resume posted online to convince the job seeker that he is a legitimate employer. Once he gains the victim's trust, he uses one of several ploys to request the job seeker's bank account number. He may tell the job seeker he needs it to deliver his/her paycheck by "direct deposit." Or the scammer may promise high wages for a job that involves forwarding, transferring or wiring money from a personal bank account, a PayPal account, or from Western Union to another account. The job seeker, as part of their pay, is instructed to keep a small percentage of the money (which can total hundreds or thousands of dollars) as payment. The money the victim transfers has invariably been stolen, so the job candidate ends up committing theft and wire fraud.

[The "personal" invitation](#)

This job scammer sends mass e-mails to long lists of recipients. The e-mail claims to have seen your resume on the Internet, notes that your skills match the requirements for their job, and invites you to complete an online job application. Or the e-mail may state that it is in response to the resume you submitted for a job opening. Proceed with caution! Is this a cold-contact e-mail from a business or person that is not familiar to you? Did you apply for a job with this organization? Did you send a resume to this recruiter? Type the company's Web site address into your browser and contact the company via telephone to check it out.

[The ID verification scenario](#)

During the job application process, or prior to promising to schedule a personal interview, the scam artist will say the business needs to scan your driver's license, passport or other means of identification to "verify" your identity. Or, the scammer claims to need your bank account or credit card numbers to run a "credit check" before proceeding with the job application process. Other red flags are requests for your Mother's maiden name, your date of birth or your Social Security number. These are not legitimate requests and can be used to commit identity theft!

[The inside scoop on federal jobs](#)

Avoid websites that promise, for a fee, to give you the inside-scoop on how to get a Federal or Postal Service job. They are likely to use a government-like name, such as the "U.S. Agency for Career Advancement" or the

