



Happy
Flag Day

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Work from Home Scam

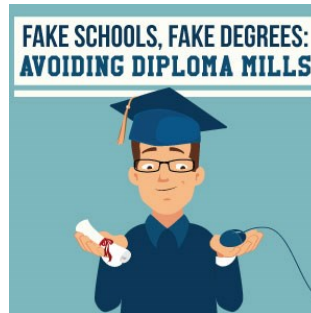
My Assistant received an email inviting her to apply for an Executive Representative position. She would work 15-20 hours a week and would be paid \$500 just to shop, pay bills and deliver/pick up mail and packages for someone who is "currently away on business." All she has to do is provide her name as it should appear on the "upfront" payment, along with some other personal information.

It's an offer millions of people can't or don't refuse. Sometimes it's hard to distinguish legitimate work-at-home programs from people who are just out to get your money. With that caveat in mind, here are some tips to help you avoid being scammed by fake job offers:

- Search for the job title in Google and see if it comes up in other locations with the exact same job description.
- Check the website address that is provided. Does it seem legitimate or does it redirect you to another site? If the link is something like "sitename.com/submityourresume.asp" search the "sitename.com" to see what the website is really about. If it's bogus, it will have nothing to do with the job offer or the company.
- Send a generic inquiry first. Do not send in your resume or waste your time on a cover letter just yet. Tell them you are interested but would like to know more about the company and the location. Be sure to ask who to direct your resume to.
- Never pay money for anything. Never give your credit card or bank account info. Never open a bank account for a foreign country!

Diploma Scams:

Share with your Family and Friends!



The Federal Trade Commission recently filed charges against operators of online "high schools" charging anywhere from \$135 to \$349 for a worthless diploma. Scammers purchased several website names designed to look like legitimate schools in effort to lure individuals to their bogus sites.

Messages on the sites imply that diplomas offered are equivalent to actual school diplomas and can be earned by using just "life experiences." Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Other Signs of Diploma Scams:

You can get the diploma from home, asap - No classes? No in-person tests? It's a scam. Legitimate programs with classes for credit means you'll invest weeks or months of time. And real school equivalency tests are offered at specific dates and times, not on demand. Most people don't pass without really studying.

You have to pay for a diploma - No legitimate school equivalency program lets you take a test or class for free, then charges you for the diploma. You might pay for the classes or testing but you shouldn't have to pay for the diploma itself.

They claim to be affiliated with the Federal Government - The federal government doesn't offer programs for earning school diplomas. To find out what tests are accepted and recognized by Florida's education standards, contact the Florida Department of Education at fldoe.org or call (877) 352-4331.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

IdentityTheft.gov

The Federal Trade Commission launched a new version of their website designed to help victims more easily report Identity Theft. Questions are asked about your situation and that information is used to create a personal recovery plan for you. The website can also be used to learn more about identity theft, find free resources about the crime and file complaints about scams or fraud.

IdentityTheft.gov is the federal government's one-stop resource for identity theft victims.