

How to Recognize Work-From-Home Scams

As the concerns of Covid-19 continue into the new year, many job seekers are searching for work-from-home opportunities now more than ever. A new surge of available remote positions also brings an increase in scammers promoting positions that may appear to be legitimate, but in reality, are not.

What can you do to ensure you do not fall victim to a remote position that is actually a scam? During your job search, always read and trust any red flags you come across that tell you this position may not be legitimate. Make sure you research the company you are pursuing, let the opportunities come to you, and always connect with the company directly. Once you obtain an interview, ask questions right away and often throughout the entire hiring process. Never give a potential employer any money or personal information in order to receive a position or even an interview. Remember, in a scam there is never a job available – it is just a desire to steal your money.

Below are some additional warning signs that a remote position may be a scam:

- The employer is extremely eager to hire you.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- The job promises you will make lots of money by doing little work.
- The employer has no digital footprint.
- You have to pay fees up-front to work.
- The employer requires a lot of your personal data right away.
- The job posting has many spelling and grammatical errors in it.
- There is little or no information available about the company.
- During the application and hiring process, you never speak to a real person.
- The employer uses a generic or personal email account to connect with you.

Below are some common work-at-home scams to be aware of when searching for any remote opportunities:

1). Stuffing Envelopes

This scam is a “pay-for-no” scheme. The employer will ask you to pay in advance to stuff envelopes for them, but there is no work to perform. They send you a letter stating the only way you will actually make money is to recruit others to buy into the same envelope-stuffing business.

2). Medical Billing

Even though this is a legitimate business, this type of work is never done by one person in a remote setting. A scammer can make good money from their targets by requesting them to buy software and equipment. They will tell you they have a list of clients to contact, but the list is most likely fake as they have already made their money through their equipment and software requests to you.

3). Assembling Products

In order to earn money, you must invest a great deal of money up front for any supplies and equipment needed to make or assemble the product. After spending many hours and much money, you are told the final product is not up to standard of the company who promised to buy them. In fact, your work never will be good enough and you are stuck with a loss of investment and time.

4). Mystery Shopping

In this scenario, the employer is looking for people who will dine or shop at particular stores or restaurants, paying them in return for a report on their experience. Some scammers may request additional funds for fake certifications or even ask you to deposit checks or wire money back to them before you and the bank realize the checks aren't real. Bottom line: you should never have to pay to be a legitimate mystery shopper.

5). Pyramid Scheme

In this scam, you build a pyramid of others who you bring into the scheme. As you bring others into the fold, you build your profits. The only problem is the product you are promoting has no real substance, and by the time you find out it is not a legitimate product or service, it is too late for the hope of making money honestly.

The good news is that there are some legitimate work-from-home jobs out there. Our NorthCentral Programs offices are here to join you in your job search efforts. Let us answer your questions and support you in your job search!

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-research-work-at-home-scams-2064281>

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