

ALERT BULLETIN

FAKE CHECK SCAM



Don't Be A Victim!



FAKE CHECK SCAM

TYPE OF SCAM

A reply to a listing or an email from a potential client and/or a check in the mail.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCAM

Websites often used by babysitters or other caregivers such as Care.com or Sittercity.com can be misused by scammers. Generally these scammers will reply to a listing of yours on the site claiming that they wish to hire you to care for their child, parent, or pet.

They commonly claim to be moving from out of state. They may also try to persuade you to accept delivery of special items or medical equipment for their loved one. Then, they will send you a fake check to deposit and tell you to keep some of it as payment and to transfer the rest to a third party to pay for the goods. The third party turns out to be fake as well, and if you already withdrew the money and transferred it you now owe the bank that money and have no way to get it back.

The scammer is also nearly impossible to find as they can pick up the money at a different location than the one you sent it to.

One local resident received a reply to one of their dog walking listings in such a manner. The scammer claimed to be moving in from out of state and would be requiring dog sitting services. The scammer claimed that she was hard of

hearing so that all communication would be by text and email. She told the resident that she would send him two weeks of pay and funds for a third party to buy dog crates. The resident then received a check through FedEx. Becoming suspicious, the local resident decided to look online to see if the check was probably fake and discovered an article indicating that this was in fact a scam. After finding this out, they reported the incident to the police. It turned out that the check was indeed a fake, but luckily the local resident determined that this was a scam before they lost any money to the scammer.

WHAT THE SCAMMER WANT\$

MONEY! The scammer expects you deposit the fake check and transfer the money to him/her before the bank can determine that the check is a fake.

YOUR RESPONSE

If a potential client tries to get you to transfer money to them using a service like Western Union or MoneyGram it is likely a scam.

Don't send cash or transfer money to someone that you don't know. Also, don't deposit checks from someone you don't know and then transfer that money. In addition, do not respond to any messages asking for personal financial information.

VICTIM OF THIS SCAM

If you or someone you know has been tricked into transfer-

ring money, report it to the money transfer company. Then report it to the [Federal Trade Commission](#). You may also wish to contact the website that the scammer used to help prevent further scams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

These are phone numbers for commonly abused money transfer services in case you have sent money to a scammer through one of them:

- MoneyGram: 1-800-666-3947 (1-800-955-7777 for Spanish)
- Western Union: 1-800-448-1492

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Illinois Attorney General: 800-386-5438

Lisle Police Department: 630-271-4200

To Report an Incident Contact

**Lisle Police Department
630-271-4200 or 911**