

# How to Avoid Employment Scams

## What Is an Employment Scam?

Job applicants are led to believe they are applying or have just been hired for a promising new job, but the job isn't real - it's a scam. Victims may end up giving personal information that can be used for identity theft or sending money for "training" or "equipment." In another variation, the victim may be "overpaid" with a fake check and asked to wire back the difference.

## 8 Prevention Tips for Job Seekers

- 1 Always do background research** on the job offer. Take the time to find the job listing on the company's website directly.
- 2 Be wary of work-from-home, shipping/warehouse opportunities or secret shopper positions.** Sixty-five percent of fake job offers were related to becoming a "warehouse redistribution coordinator," or some similar titles involving the reshipment of packages.
- 3 Watch out for on-the-spot job offers.** You may be an excellent candidate for the job, but beware of offers made too quickly or without an interview.
- 4 Don't fall for a fake check scam.** Thirty-six percent of those who reported employment scams said they received a fake check. Be wary if the "employer" asks you to deposit a check and transfer funds to another account for training, equipment, or any other reason.
- 5 Be cautious sharing personal information or any kind of pre-payment.** For every victim who lost money, at least one other worked for the scammer without pay, and yet another provided personal information.
- 6 Be wary of offers that seem too good to be true.** Scammers promise work-from-home jobs, higher salaries, and flexible opportunities if you pay for coaching, training, certifications, or directories. If you are paying for the promise of a job, it's probably a scam.
- 7 Be wary of vague job descriptions.** In order to reach as many people as possible, scammers list job requirements that are broad enough to enable anyone to qualify.
- 8 Even if you do the work, it still may be a scam.** Thirty-two percent of those who reported employment scams said they did work before they realized it was a scam.

## Employment Scam STATS

**\$1,000 Median Reported Loss** from employment scams between 2015 and 2020.

**Financial loss is highest for older adults,** but adults ages 25-44 report higher exposure to employment scams.

### Top 3 reasons for pursuing jobs offered by scammers:



**53%**  
FLEXIBILITY TO  
WORK FROM HOME



**23%**  
HIGHER  
SALARY



**8%**  
FLEXIBLE  
HOURS

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