

What is a job scam?

It is when a scammer pretends to be an employer. Generally, job seekers are told to pay for things required for a job. Once the job seeker pays, the scammer disappears leaving the job seeker without a job and out of pocket.

Mystery Shopper

Scammers (employers) send texts, emails and post ads using free classified sites to recruit mystery shoppers. The "employer" sends the "employee" a shopping list to be completed at a certain store. The "employee's" tasks include shopping for the stated goods and rating the service they received. The "employer" also includes a cheque to cover the costs of the goods on the list and payment for the "employee" and is told to deposit the cheque into their bank account. The "employee" is told to send money at a money service such as Western Union with the remaining funds. Ultimately, the cheque is returned by the bank as counterfeit leaving the "employee" responsible to pay.



Reshipping Scams

Ads for work-at-home positions like "Merchandising Manager" or "Package Processing Assistant" are posted on classified or career sites. Duties include: receiving packages and mailing them to a foreign address on behalf of a client using postage-paid mailing labels provided. "Employees" receive packages containing either merchandise bought with stolen credit cards (the "employer" needs your help to transport the products out of the country) or counterfeit cheques.

Debt Settlement Collection Scams

Using social networking sites like LinkedIn, "employers" search for professionals to collect unsettled debt. "Employers" claim they are from a foreign country and are trying to collect debt from a Canadian company. "Employees" receive contact info for the company/debtor that agrees to settle its debt once it's contacted by the "employee". The "employee" receives a counterfeit cheque as payment from the company/debtor and is instructed to wire transfer the money back to fraud accounts in foreign countries.

Job Search Safety Tips

- Never provide banking or personal info on your résumé or during interviews: legitimate Canadian job ads won't ask for these
- Look out for unsolicited requests from potential clients from overseas looking for help to settle a debt
- Always verify a cheque or wait until the cheque clears before returning or forwarding any funds
- Be mindful of employers who contact you by free email providers such as: Yahoo! Gmail or Hotmail; legitimate employers normally use company email addresses
- Since many online scams start overseas, the scammers first language probably isn't English; look out for grammar and spelling mistakes in the emails or online
- Research the company online. Do they have a website? If not, what comes up during your search?
- If it's too good to be true, it probably is. Warning signs include: being offered a job without having met the employer, a job that pays a lot of money for little work, a job that doesn't require experience as well as being hired on the spot

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