
From: Sergeant Ostoits [sgt.ostoits@stpetebeach.org]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 9:54 AM
Cc: PoliceDept
Subject: Scam alert from Sgt. Al Ostoits SPB PD

One of my officers just took a report from one of our residents who was scammed out of thousands of dollars.

He received a letter from a company called Ballantyne Corporate Place along with a check in his name for several thousand dollars. Upon receipt of the letter and check he was to call a Research Associate listed in the letter. Our victim was going to do "SECRET SHOPPING" for this company in the field of evaluating quality service at each location such as Burger King and Wal-Mart. This was going to be the victims PROBATIONAL TRAINING TASK.

The victim was to send in, via fax the results of his findings and was instructed to go to various locations and obtain Money Grams for various amounts and send these to different persons located in Canada.

He deposited the original check he received into his bank account and after several days checked and observed the bank showed the deposit. That was when he started going to the business and sending money grams to Canada. He rechecked his bank statement only to find out the deposit had now been withdrawn from his account.

The victim was to have received \$400 for his time however now he is out thousands of dollars.

Sergeant Al Ostoits
St. Pete Beach Police Department
(727) 363-9200