

CONSUMER ALERT

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection datcp.wisconsin.gov



“Road to Riches” Not Paved with Stuffed Envelopes

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MADISON – For folks tight on cash, any opportunity to bring in extra money may be attractive, and an offer to make money at home simply by stuffing envelopes or compiling booklets may seem too good to pass up. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) advises Wisconsin residents that any work-at-home proposal that requires an upfront fee is probably a scam.

Wisconsin consumers are telling DATCP about mailings from a New Jersey-based company that promises \$10 for each envelope that an at-home worker stuffs and mails out on the company’s behalf. The offer also claims that the company pays for the printed materials, envelopes and postage. Another mailing to Wisconsin residents from the same company claims to pay workers \$20 for each booklet that they assemble and mail out.

What’s the catch? This work offer requires an upfront payment from participants for start-up costs and workers are paid only if the mailed letters and booklets lead to a sale.

Stuffing and addressing envelopes is a common work-at-home pitch, and consumers who pay a start-up fee for these “opportunities” sometimes discover that their money only buys a list of companies that are supposedly interested in having them perform these services. Consumers must contact each of the companies at their own expense and await a possible reply. More often than not, the companies on the list ask for additional money before sending details or claim to never hire outside help.

For additional information or to file a complaint, visit the Consumer Protection Bureau at datcp.wisconsin.gov, send an e-mail to datcp@wisconsin.gov or call the Consumer Protection Hotline toll-free at 1-800-422-7128.

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