

BUSINESS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

DON'T GET SCAMMED

Common Schemes

Veterans should be aware of these schemes in case someone asks you to participate, or in case you see fraudulent activity. Indicators of potential fraud include the following:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it typically is.
- Bogus company sending a large check for you to buy something like computer equipment and then asks you to repay the excess funds via a wire transfer service, cryptocurrency or gift cards.
- Charging a fee for assisting you with completing an employment application.
- Offered wage is higher or lower than the average wage for that job. Check current wages on the internet.
- The link for submission of your application is not connected to the company's official career website, or the job posting is not on the company's official job page or a related official recruitment website.



DO'S

Before you accept a job offer, and certainly before you pay for one, take these steps to protect yourself from job scams:

- **Do an online search.** Look up the name of the company or the person who's hiring you, plus the words "scam," "review," or "complaint." You might find out they've scammed other people.
- **Talk to someone you trust.** Describe the offer to them. What do they think? This also helps give you vital time to think about the offer.
- **Read the fine print.** If a job ad looks too good to be true, it is most likely a scam.
- **Ask questions about the job description.** Scammers will post vague language about the prospective job.
- **Check to make sure the recruiter that calls you is who they say they are** by doing an online search or calling the company directly.
- **Be cautious** of conducting interviews through Google Hangouts, Telegram App, texting apps (TextFree app, TextNow app, WhatsApp).



DON'TS

Employment scams may include business or job opportunities such as offers to start new businesses or work-from-home. The scammer then uses the illusion of prospects to manipulate and/or steal from you.

- **Do not provide personal information during an interview.** i.e., Social Security number, driver's license number or bank account information.
- **Do not pay for the promise of a job.** Legitimate employers, including the federal government, will never ask you to pay to get a job. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- **Do not bank on a "cleared" check.** No legitimate potential employer will ever send you a check and then tell you to send on part of the money or buy gift cards with it. That's a fake check scam. The check will bounce, and the bank will want you to repay the amount of the fake check.

For all non-Veteran Affairs related fraud, reach out to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

- **Online:** <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>