SCAM ALERT:
Business Opportunity Scams

Scam at a glance:
Consumers have lost millions of dollars to
con artists who promise to set-up work-at-home or
online businesses from which the consumer can earn
a substantial income. When the money does not
materialize, consumers are left with empty bank
accounts and sometimes thousands of dollars of debt.

Arizona Attorney General
Mark Brnovich

Warning Signs:
• The company emphasizes huge potential earnings
  for little to no effort, often using false testimonials
  by others who claim to have earned unbelievable
  profits.
• You have to pay up-front to begin work.
• The business does not have a physical location or the
  company representatives are unable to meet with
  you in person.
• High-pressure tactics are used to convince you to join
  the company or invest in the business opportunity.
• When you are not earning what you thought you
  would make, you are asked to invest more money in
  order to obtain higher returns.
Protect Yourself:

→ Avoid work-at-home jobs that charge an up-front fee.

→ Be skeptical about claims regarding huge potential income.

→ Check with the Arizona Secretary of State to ensure the business opportunity seller is registered as a telephonic seller.

→ Check with the Better Business Bureau and read online reviews.

→ Always do your research and ask questions before investing.

→ Ask for information in writing.

→ Meet personally with representatives of the company, view the physical location of the company, ensure all contact is traceable, and verify the actual earning potential of the business opportunity.

→ Never invest more than you can afford to lose.

→ Speak with a professional financial advisor or attorney before making any large investment.

Resources:

Arizona Attorney General's Office
www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer
Phoenix: (602) 542 - 5763, Tucson: (520) 628 - 6648
or Toll-free: (800) 352 - 8431

For additional information go to:
www.azag.gov/consumer/consumereducation

Task Force Against Senior Abuse Helpline
(602) 542 - 2124 or (844) 894 - 4735

www.azag.gov/scamalert