

# BUSINESS & JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## DON'T GET SCAMMED WITH EMPLOYMENT

### 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>

**For suspected fraud or scams:**

- **Call the VSAFE Fraud Hotline: 1-833-38V-SAFE**
- **Visit VSAFE online: [www.VSAFE.gov](http://www.VSAFE.gov)**

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**