

Don't Fall for Immigration Scams!

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Scammers are constantly finding new ways to defraud people. Because U.S. immigration is complicated and in high demand, it's prime material for fraudsters, who hope they can trick people into sending them money.

One of our clients recently heard on the radio that there is a new law that allows employers to petition for their employees' legal status. The ad gave a phone number to call for more details, so our client dialed the number to see what she could find out. She reached a recorded message, which asked her to enter her credit card information so she could

receive information about this new immigration law by email. Luckily, our client thought this sounded suspicious, so she called our office, and Margaret confirmed that there have been no new changes in the law. Our client had just avoided becoming the victim of an immigration scam!

Asking for credit card or other payment information is a common tactic that scammers use. You should never send money to anyone for legal advice or services unless you know they are an authorized immigration attorney.

Sometimes scammers even pretend to be someone from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and they call immigrants to tell them that they owe money for applications filed, or for fines due. Don't be fooled! The Immigration Service NEVER asks for payments over the phone or via email, and they do NOT initiate calls to anyone. If you receive a call from someone purporting to be from the Immigration Service, you know immediately that it is a scam. Do not send money, ever.

If you believe you've been a target or a victim for an immigration scam, please report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <http://1.usa.gov/1suOHSS>. If you receive a suspicious email or voice message and are not sure if it is a scam, you can forward it to the USCIS webmaster at uscis.webmaster@uscis.dhs.gov. They will review the messages received and share them with law enforcement agencies if appropriate. For more information on common scams and other important tips, visit the Avoid Scams Initiative at uscis.gov/avoidscams

Remember, there are no shortcuts to legal status, and there is no substitute for the legal advice of an immigration attorney.

For appointments call 206-774-8758 or email
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