



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



SUPPORTING OHIO | SMALL BUSINESSES

Just like consumers, small businesses can be targeted by scams and deceptive behavior in the marketplace. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office is working to level the playing field by cracking down on fraudulent, unfair and deceptive practices that hurt Ohio's economy.

BEWARE OF THESE COMMON SCAMS:



- ❑ Businesses that charge a fee to help your business comply with a “new government regulation”
- ❑ Unauthorized phone charges or phony billing schemes, where you receive fake invoices or where a service is “renewed” without your consent
- ❑ Office supply scams where businesses send you products you did not order or deliver lower quality goods
- ❑ Phony offers to advertise on behalf of your business

TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS:



- ❑ Centralize office management so one person oversees all of your vendors. This will help prevent companies from pretending that they've done business with you before.
- ❑ Immediately report any unordered merchandise or invoices to the supplier.
- ❑ Ask for written confirmation of your transaction with all conditions clearly stated.
- ❑ Always get contact information from those offering services over the phone or e-mail.

FILE A COMPLAINT

If you have experienced an unfair or deceptive business transaction, report it to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Your complaint will help us ensure a fair marketplace that rewards honest businesses and holds wrongdoers accountable.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office provides free educational workshops on consumer law, discrimination, housing, and contracting with the state. To request a workshop on one of these topics go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BusinessServices or call **800-282-0515**.

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