

March 6, 2009 Fairmont Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (507) 238-4481

**Fairmont Police Department cautions area residents to be cautious of Secret Shopper scams**

**Fairmont, MN**

The Fairmont Police Department is advising area residents to be cautious of "secret / mystery shopper" employment opportunities.

In the last several weeks the Fairmont Police Department began receiving more reports from city residents on one of the latest frauds to get money from unsuspecting residents. While the details of the scam can vary, this latest financial scam involves scam artists sending documents on becoming a possible secret shopper. The documents usually include a letter explaining the employment opportunity, a fraudulent business check, and also some type of evaluation form.

The letter details a job opportunity as a mystery or secret shopper. As part of the duties you are asked to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of different types of stores. But what each of these scams includes is some type of wire transfer through Western Union or Money Gram. These letters indicate that this is a weekly job assignment and they ask you to complete it in an expeditious manner. The scam is successful because they instruct you to complete the wire transfer within the first week and the scam artists know that some of these counterfeit fraudulent checks can take between one to three weeks before they are proven to be counterfeit. Unfortunately the account holder will then be held accountable for the entire amount of the check.

From our experience with scams whenever you're asked to wire transfer money it has a very high probability of being a scam. The problem with wire transfers is that a Money Gram wire transfer can be picked up anywhere in the world, no matter what location the sender writes on the receipt.

Investigation into these types of frauds typically crosses international borders which makes prosecution unlikely and the recovery of any lost funds near impossible. Area residents are advised that if they receive this type of letter they should not wire transfer money and law enforcement should be contacted.

An example of this type of scam is included below.

Detective Corey Klanderud  
Fairmont Police Department  
cklanderud@fairmont.org

# SHOPPERS ANONYMOUS INC.

(BEST SOURCE FOR MYSTERY CUSTOMER EMPLOYMENT)

TEL/ 1-905-609-8026

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

ATTENTION:

We are a MYSTERY CUSTOMER employment firm that specializes in the assisting of corporations on how to improve customer service to their clientele; we represent 1500 firms with more to come, we utilize a method known as mystery shopping to achieve this goal.

**Congratulations!!!** Due to the information we have ascertained, you are part of a small pre-selected group (MEANING NO REGISTRATION FEES) to represent our company as a mystery shopper, in addition you fit the criterion of an individual who is prepared to supplement their income by taking advantage of this opportunity.

The first probational training task is a PAID training assignment and is to be completed as directed by any of our assignment coordinators, so please contact us at 1-905-609-8026 Ext. 100 to connect to a coordinator for detailed instructions.

Your job description would be to pose as a potential customer to the assigned place of business and evaluate the effectiveness; efficiency and customer service of the particular establishment, in the process of this evaluation, please take note of the quality of service in order to be able to fill out a fair and unbiased opinion on the Customer Service Evaluation Tool (CSET) form enclosed with this letter. This form and all receipts must be mailed back to our office upon completion of assignment.

**NOTE: ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR \$4998 TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR ASSIGNMENT; IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT UPON RECEIPT OF THIS CHECK THAT YOU CONTACT OUR OFFICE IMMEDIATELY, FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC STOP PAYMENT ORDER OF CHECK.**

Below is the breakdown of attached funds:

SALARY AND TRAINING PAY-----\$300.00

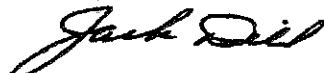
Your tasks are as follows: Wal-Mart Purchase-----\$50.00  
Gap Purchase----- \$40.00  
Western Union transfer----- \$1579.00  
Service Charge by Western Union-----\$99.00  
Moneygram transfer-----\$2873.00  
Service Charge by Moneygram-----\$57.00

Total----- \$4998.00

Please note that due to the confidentiality agreement we have with our clients in addition with you as a representative of our firm, you are to act in accordance with the Employee Code of Business Conduct and Ethics as instructed by your coordinator, furthermore all tasks should be performed in a professional and expeditious manner, in order for this to be a weekly employment opportunity.

Remember its shopping so have fun!!!!!!

Sincerely,



Jack A. Dill  
(CHIEF ASSIGNMENT CO-ORDINATOR)

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HEAD OFFICE:

SUITE# 108 - 121 E HIGHWAY 46  
WAGNER, SD 57380



Elberfeld State Bank

# CASHIER'S CHECK

AN INDEMNITY AND/OR SURETY BOND MAY BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO REPLACEMENT OR REFUND OF THIS CHECK IF LOST OR DESTROYED

NO. 253975646

71-738/810

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 01 / 28 / 2009

Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Eight and 00/100\*\*\*\*\*DOLLARS

\$ \*\*4,998.00\*\*

REMITTER: S. A. Inc. \_\_\_\_\_

Countersigned if Amount over \$5,000.00

ELBERFELD STATE BANK, ELBERFELD, IN  
FOR INQUIRES CALL 1-866-786-4956

SECURITY FEATURES INCLUDED. DETAILS ON BACK

⑈253975646⑈ ⑆081307382⑆ 4119287244⑈



## Customer Service Evaluation Tool (CSET).

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Name of Corporation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of transaction: \_\_\_\_\_

	POOR	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	EXCELLENT
The sales rep. was courteous					
The sales rep. was dressed appropriately					
The sales rep. was professional					
The sales rep. answered your questions in a polite and courteous manner					
The sales rep. explained the details of your transaction					
The sales rep. verified your funds					
The sales rep. was Fast and efficient					

