

Be on the Lookout for Medical Billing from Home Scams

Given the troubled economy, growing numbers of job seekers, and the high profile news about health care, medical billing from home scams are on the rise.

Like most scams, medical billing ads lure consumers with the promise of making lots of money in a short period of time. Many are sold when they find out that the business can be run from home with little or no experience required.

In exchange for your investment of \$400 or more, you will be provided with a package (i.e. training, software, marketing materials, and lists of doctors) to launch your business. Most likely you will be assured that medical practices and doctors are eager for your help in processing billing claims. The truth is that medical billing is big business and is usually carried out by professional billing firms with significant expertise and resources. Doctors do not hire consumers to process bills at home!

Don't respond to these ads! Very few people who invest in medical billing opportunities ever find clients or turn any profits.

Always research a medical billing company before you do business with them. Get a referral from someone you trust (i.e. a relative, friend, or colleague) and check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the company.

For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

Office of Consumer Affairs
www.mass.gov/consumer
617-973-8787

Office of the Attorney General
www.mass.gov/ago
(617) 727-8400

Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov
(877) FTC-HELP / (877) 382-4357

Better Business Bureau
www.boston.bbb.org
(508) 652-4800
www.central-westernma.bbb.org
(508) 755-2548

If You Are a Victim of a Medical Billing Scam:

- First try to clear it up with the company, and demand a 100% refund. If the company is uncooperative, let them know that you will be contacting law enforcement officials about the matter. Keep all records of conversations and correspondence.
- If you found out about the company on a website, let the site know so that they can remove it from their site.
- File a complaint with the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation and the Attorney General's Office.
- Contact the Better Business Bureau (your local office and in the company's state).
- Contact the Postmaster if you received the offer in the mail.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Although the FTC does not handle individual complaints, they look for patterns of deception and unfair practices.