



Economic Crimes

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Fraud-Scam Alert

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Newspaper ad/Job opening scam

Arlington police warn about a classified advertisement in a local newspaper that claims to offer employment but instead defrauds victim of money. Two instances have been reported by Arlington residents; each victim lost about \$1,000.

Basic scam information:

- Victim answers a classified newspaper ad that reads: “Intown Runners needed for sporting goods store. Must be hard working. \$13.50 hr. 9-5. Will provide company car. Must have good driving record. Fax resume 1-800-595-9374.”
- Victim is directed to fill out personal information – including bank account information, supposedly for direct deposits – at the website “www.cz.zapto.org”
- Victim is notified by phone that the company has deposited money into her bank account
- Victim is instructed to transfer the “company” funds to Mexico for a company purchase
- After victim makes the transfer, the “company” checks bounce, leaving the victim responsible to the bank for the missing funds

What can happen:

- Personal information can be revealed
- Victim’s identity could be stolen
- Victim could lose hundreds of dollars

Avoid becoming a victim:

- Never provide personal information unless you have initiated the conversation and are certain you’re dealing with a legitimate business. (Check with the Better Business Bureau).
- Contact the police immediately when suspicious or unsure about questionable business transactions.
- Be wary of a company that wants to use your personal bank account for its business transactions. Most legitimate companies do not use an employee’s bank account for anything other than direct deposit paychecks.