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2016
SUMMER
CONFERENCE

*Scams and Shams - Tennessee Fights Back Against
Corporate Records Scam*



TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE Tre Hargett

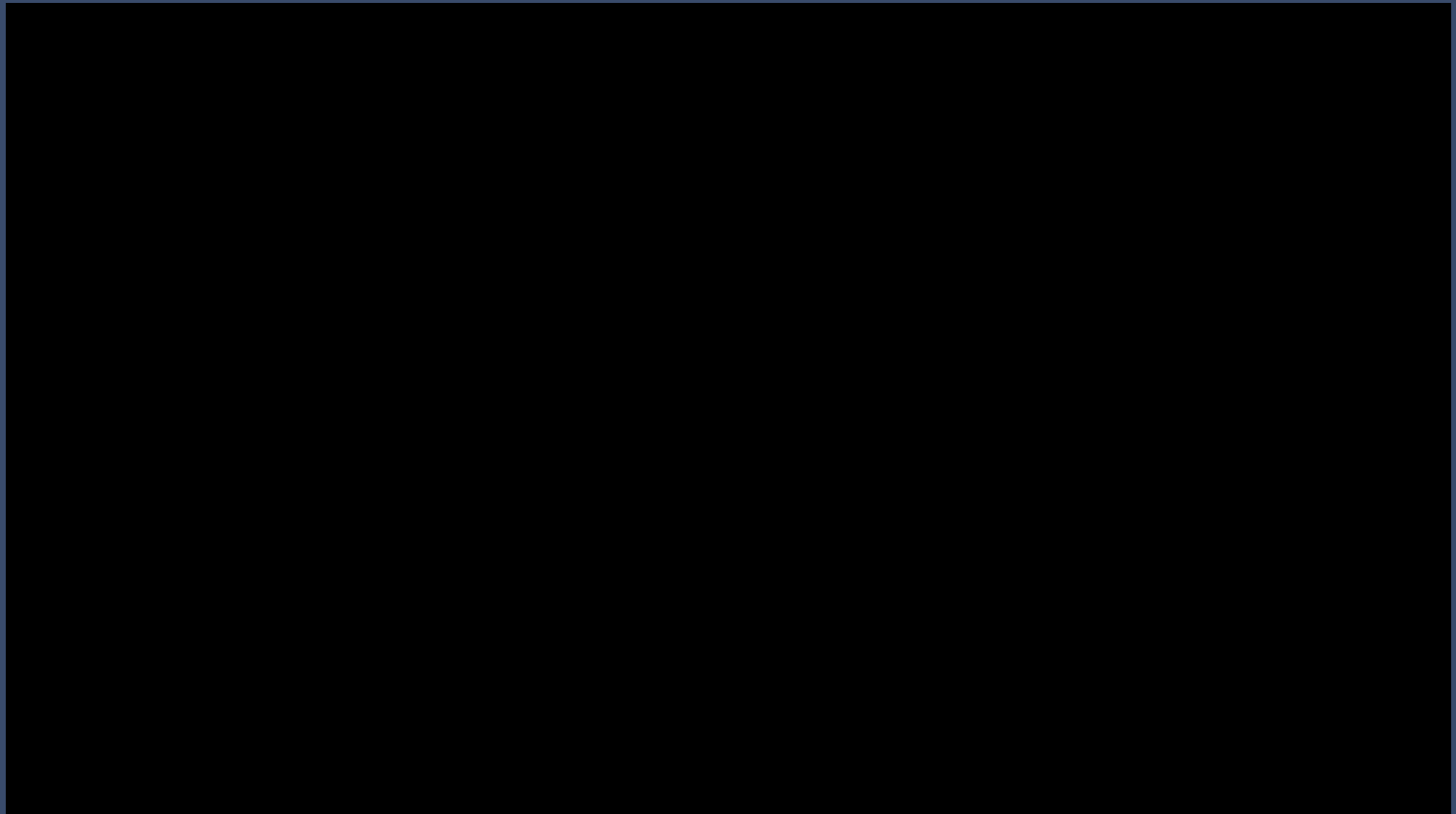
Our mission is to exceed the expectations of our customers, the taxpayers, by operating at the highest levels of accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and accountability in a customer-centered environment.

Scams Impacting the Tennessee Division of Business Services:

- *Companies pose as the division*
- *Companies charge for legally required workplace posters*
- *“Sovereign citizens” fraudulently file UCC liens*

Companies Pose as Business Services

In July 2015, we issued a warning about State Compliance Center or “SCC” soliciting \$88 for Certificates of Existence/Authorization, which actually cost \$20.



Companies Pose as Business Services

Other company names include:

“Corporate Records Services”

“Annual Business Services”

“Division of Corporate Services”

So what do we do?

The “Government Impostor and Deceptive Advertisements Act” was signed into law on March 10, 2016.



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 594

SENATE BILL NO. 1928

By Johnson, Bell, Briggs; Mr. Speaker Ramsey; Norris, Stevens, Gardenhire, Watson, Tracy, Bowling, Ketron, Roberts

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2049

By Eldridge, Clemmons, Hardaway, Miller, Turner, Mitchell, Lynn, Casada, Pody, Terry, Farmer, Fitzhugh, Kevin Brooks, McDaniel, McCormick, Rogers, Kumar, Smith, Mark White, Moody, Byrd, Hawk, Jenkins, McManus, Windle, Favors, Powell, Dunlap, Daniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, relative to misrepresenting status as governmental entity or agent.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

Companies Pose as Business Services

This disclosure is now required:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The documents offered by this advertisement are available to Tennessee consumers free of charge or for a lesser price from (insert name, telephone number, and mailing address of the applicable governmental entity). You are NOT required to purchase anything from this company and the company is NOT affiliated, endorsed, or approved by any governmental entity. The item offered in this advertisement has NOT been approved or endorsed by any governmental agency, and this offer is NOT being made by an agency of the government.

Penalties for failing to comply include:

- *\$100 fine for each person who receives advertisement*
- *Reimbursing the state investigation and legal costs*
- *All money collected will be used to enforce consumer protection activities*

Companies Charge for Legally Required Workplace Posters

You Have a Right to a Safe and Healthful Workplace.

IT'S THE LAW!

- You have the right to notify your employer or TOSHA about workplace hazards. You may ask TOSHA to keep your name confidential.
- You have the right to request a TOSHA inspection if you believe unsafe and unhealthful conditions in your workplace may require an inspection.
- You can file a complaint with TOSHA if you believe your employer is making safety and health violations under the TOSHA Act or the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act.
- You have a right to see TOSHA if your employer must post the citations at or near the location of the violation.
- Your employer must correct workplace hazards and must certify that these hazards have been corrected.
- You have rights under the Tennessee Hazardous Chemicals Information Act if you work with hazardous chemicals. This act requires employers to provide information about health effects, protective measures, and provided access to the safety data sheets.
- You have the right to copies of your exposure to toxic and harmful substances.
- Your employer must post this notice in a conspicuous place.



The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act provides for safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, is responsible for administering the TOSHA Act. The rights listed here may be found in the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act.



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE POSTER FOR EMPLOYEES

Your employer provides insurance to help protect you when you become unemployed through no fault of your own. Employers pay the full cost of unemployment insurance for their employees. Nothing is deducted from your pay for this insurance nor does any money come from State of Tennessee funds.

To be eligible for benefits you must:

- Be separated from employment through no fault of your own.
- Have qualifying wages in the base period.
- Be able and available for work.
- Search for work by making a minimum of three tangible job contacts each week and document each contact in your Job Search Log. You may log in to www.tn.gov/tnjobs to search for work online.
- Keep a record of your weekly work searches on your Job Search Log and keep a snapshot or "thumb" in your email account; a copy of the confirmation page from an application sent electronically from an employer on company letterhead showing that the application or résumé was received.

Failure to make three weekly work searches will result in a loss of benefits unless you are job attached, a re-entrant, or attending training approved by the Commissioner.

If you become unemployed you may file for benefits through the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Unemployment insurance claims may be filed by telephone (877-813-0950) or online at <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/topics/unemployment-online-application>.

Before beginning the claim filing process, you should have your:

- Social Security Number
- Telephone Number
- Address
- Name of county of residence
- Employment data for the last 18 months including employer name and address, and
- Bank routing number and bank account number if you elect to receive benefits by direct deposit; other receive benefits on the Tennessee Automated Payment VISA Card provided by Chase Bank.

You must keep your address current with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Go to <http://www.tn.gov> to apply for unemployment benefits, to file a wage protest, to file an appeal of an unemployment determination, and to view and update your choice of type of unemployment benefit payment.

www.tn.gov

You may log in to www.tn.gov/tnjobs to register and search for work by using services offered by our Talent Centers. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has staff available to help you fill training opportunities.

You may go to the Department's website at <http://www.tn.gov/workforce/tnjobs/find-local-help> to find the most convenient Tennessee American Job Center.

Partial Unemployment

If you are still employed, but working less than full-time because your employer schedules you for fewer hours you may be eligible for partial unemployment benefits. Ask your employer to file a claim for you. If your employer does not, contact Labor and Workforce Development Claims Operations at 877-813-0950.

Please post in a conspicuous place.

The TN Department of Labor and Workforce Development is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Tennessee Relay Service is 711.

TENNESSEE LAW PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY PERSON BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, RELIGION, SEX, AGE, DISABILITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, HIRING, DISCHARGE, PROMOTION, OR ANY CONDITION, TERM OR PRIVILEGE OF EMPLOYMENT.

If you feel that you have been discriminated against, contact the Tennessee Human Rights Commission.



LA LEY DE TENNESSEE PROHIBE LA DISCRIMINACIÓN EN EL EMPLEO

ES EN CONTRA DE LA LEY DISCRIMINAR EN CONTRA DE CUALQUIER PERSONA DEBIDO EN BASE A LA RAZA, COLOR, CREDO, RELIGIÓN, SEXO, EDAD, INCAPACIDAD U ORIGEN EN EL SELECCIÓN, ENTRENAMIENTO, EMPLEO, AL DESPEDIR, PROMOVER O CUALQUIER CONDICIÓN, TÉRMINO O PRIVILEGIO DE EMPLEO.

Si usted cree que ha sido víctima de discriminación, comuníquese con la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Tennessee.

CONTACT US/PARA MAS INFORMACIÓN:

TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



WILLIAM R. SNODGRASS TENNESSEE TOWER
312 ROSA L. PARKS AVENUE
23RD FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1102

PHONE: (615) 741-5825 OR
1-800-251-3589
ESPAÑOL: 1-866-856-1252
WWW.TN.GOV/HUMANRIGHTS

Companies Charge for Legally Required Workplace Posters

You Have a Right to a Safe and Healthful Workplace.

IT'S THE LAW!

- You have the right to notify your employer or TOSHA about workplace hazards. You may ask TOSHA to keep your name confidential.
- You have the right to request a TOSHA inspection if you believe that there are unsafe and unhealthful conditions in your workplace. You or your representative may participate in the inspection.
- You can file a complaint with TOSHA within 30 days of discrimination by your employer for making safety and health complaints or for asserting your rights under the TOSHA Act or the Tennessee Hazardous Chemical Right-to-Know Act.
- You have a right to see TOSHA citations issued to your employer. Your employer must post the citations at or near the place of the alleged violation.
- Your employer must correct workplace hazards by the date indicated on the citation and must certify that these hazards have been reduced or eliminated.
- You have rights under the Tennessee Right to Know Law concerning hazardous chemicals in your work area. Your employer must provide training about health effects, protective measures, safe handling procedures, as well as information on interpreting labels and safety data sheets (SDS). You must be provided access to the safety data sheets and the workplace chemical list.
- You have the right to copies of your medical records or records of your exposure to toxic and harmful substances or conditions.
- Your employer must post this notice in your workplace.



The Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1972, T.C.A. §§ 50-3-101 et seq., assures safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women throughout the state. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (TOSHA) has the primary responsibility for administering the TOSHA Act. The rights listed here may vary depending on the particular circumstances. To file a

Companies will send official looking letters soliciting as much as \$84 for posters that are free online.

We continue to work with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development to highlight this scam every time it resurfaces.

“Sovereign Citizens” Fraudulently File UCC Liens

Anderson County man files \$8 million property lien against the judge presiding over his homicide case.

He also filed liens against other local officials, including the district attorney general, court clerk and police chief.

Courtesy: Knoxville News Sentinel

Anderson vehicular homicide case stalls when suspect files lien against judge



Anderson County Criminal Court Judge Don Elledge

By Bob Fowler of the Knoxville News Sentinel

June 03, 2016

CLINTON — Arraignment for a man accused of killing one person and injuring 11 others in a driving incident after a 4th of July fireworks show was abruptly halted Friday because the man has filed an \$8 million lien against the presiding judge's property.

A furious Anderson County Criminal Court Judge Don Elledge told Lee Cromwell he was recusing himself from the case and would ask the state's Administrative Office of the Courts to appoint a special

“Sovereign Citizens” Fraudulently File UCC Liens

The Tennessee Division of Business Services processed more than 170,000 UCC filings in 2015, many of which were filed online.

It is not always possible to identify if a lien is fraudulent.

In Tennessee, it’s a class E felony to file a fake UCC lien.



TENNESSEE SECRETARY OF STATE

Tre Hargett

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@SecTreHargett



TennesseeSecretaryofState



@sectrehargett