

Are ads offering work-at-home opportunities legitimate?

Dear Attorney General Kline:
With my kids back in school now, I'm thinking about doing some work from my home. I saw a newspaper ad recently offering good pay for work I could do in my spare time, but I'm a little skeptical. How can I be sure this is a legitimate business offer?



phill kline

• attorney general

even equipment, needed to do the job. Companies sponsoring these offers may also demand that you pay for additional instructions or materials.

These work-at-home schemes come in many different forms, but two of the more common ones are "envelope stuffing" and assembly or craft work. In "envelope stuffing," promoters usually advertise that for a fee they will tell you how to earn money stuffing envelopes at home.

Later — when it's too late — you discover that for your fee you're likely to get a letter telling you to place the same "envelope stuffing

ad" in newspapers, or to send it to friends and relatives. The only way you make any money is if people then respond to your work-at-home ad.

Assembly or craft work programs many times require you to invest hundreds of dollars in supplies or equipment. You may also be required to spend a considerable amount of time producing goods for a company that has promised to buy them.

However, after you've purchased the equipment and supplies and done the work, fraudulent operators don't pay you, leaving you with the equipment and supplies but no income.

The legitimate work-at-home

program operators should tell you in writing and at no cost what's involved. Here are some questions you might ask a potential employer:

- What specific tasks will I have to perform?
- Will I be paid a salary or will I earn a commission?
- Who will pay me and when will I get my first check?
- What is the total cost of the work-at-home program and what will I get for my money?

It's also a good idea to check out the company by contacting the Better Business Bureau both where the company is located and where you live.

Consumers deceived by these ads have lost thousands of dollars in

addition to time and energy. Getting answers to these questions should help you determine whether a work-at-home program is legitimate and whether or not it's for you.

Attorney General Phillip Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For further information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phillip Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

National Guard celebrates birthday, prepares to help Gulf Coast

Last week I helped celebrate the Kansas National Guard's 150th birthday in the statehouse. What started as a celebration turned into a demonstration of why Kansans and members of the Guard never fail to inspire me.

Just two days after a deployment ceremony for 546 Kansas National Guard members who will soon be on their way to Iraq, our Kansas troops stood ready to go to Louisiana and Mississippi to help residents of those flood-ravaged states begin to rebuild their lives.

And as the nightmare stories of devastation have overwhelmed our emotions, Kansans of all walks of life, in every part of the state, have



kathleen sebelius

• governor

above all, help our neighbors.

That goes for citizens across the United States, who have offered yet another reminder that, in America, we take care of our own.

With 150 Kansas National Guard troops now in the disaster area, and more ready to go if called upon, once again I've been privileged to witness Kansans' incredible willingness to serve those in need.

The occasional harshness of prairie life has always encouraged Kansans to rely on one another. And this tradition carries on today, whether

in times of crisis or in the everyday business of bringing people of a large, diverse state together to provide for the best possible schools and to offer health care to all our citizens.

In times of emergencies, this history of coming together makes us understand how we must help our neighbors, whether they are down the street or halfway across the country.

Even as our men and women in uniform head south, the immensity of this tragedy has given us all roles to play here at home, both in terms of helping the hurricane victims and in continuing to help those in need right here in Kansas. We can do that

by making contributions of money and necessities, giving blood and assisting communities in sheltering evacuees.

In the weeks to come, Kansas will play host to about 4,500 temporarily displaced individuals from the storm area.

I know that Kansans will open their homes and their hearts to the people, with all the hospitality and generosity that makes Kansas such a special place.

Although we in Kansas were spared the destruction of Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding, the indirect results of this storm — such as the rising gasoline prices that pinch the budgets of families,

farmers, and school districts — remind us of our connections across the entire country. At the same time, the sacrifices of Kansans make the outpouring of our state's generosity all the more gratifying.

Like the Good Samaritan, who refused to pass by when a stranger lay battered and helpless at the side of the road, Kansans, and all Americans, must continue to come together and provide aid and comfort to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the weeks and months ahead.

I have every confidence Kansans will keep on offering their time, talents and treasure to overcome the devastation that has so deeply affected the nation's soul.

Workshop to educate, re-energize caregivers planned Saturday in Oberlin

The desire to provide quality care for those we love is an issue to all Americans. At some time we've all been caught off guard by the challenge of providing care to a child, elderly parent or a spouse.

The magnitude of responsibilities in providing the care can be overwhelming. Many times the caregiver is so busy caring for another they forget about themselves.

Hospice Services Inc. is proud to be able to provide a workshop entitled "Celebrating Ourselves." The workshop is provided in part through a gift from the Lois Steiner Estate.

The goal of the workshop is to educate caregivers and individuals



hospice services inc.

• end-of-life care

speaker from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mountain Time. She worked in Hospice care for over 20 years and received the

1997 Association of Kansas Hospice Loyette Olson Pioneer Award.

She holds a masters in theology and presents workshops and retreats on a variety of themes. This two-hour opener is intended as a mini-retreat, exploring avenues of self-care and practices to rediscover the passion felt early on in our personal, professional and volunteer

lives. Gentle exercises and reflections will be offered.

In the afternoon, attendees will have a choice to hear two of the three breakout sessions. One session will run from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. the second from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Jenny Niblock is an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner with Family Center for Health Care in Colby who will give a presentation on weight management. She will discuss the benefits of weight loss, risk of weight gain, environmental concerns, realistic goal setting and maintenance after weight loss using lifestyle modification.

Mary Lewis is a board certified

clinical hypnotherapist from Atwood, who has operated a private practice since 1991. She will share the peace and acceptance hypnotherapy can bring into individuals' lives, along with how it assists with personal growth and life challenges.

The third choice is "Celebrating You and Your Personality" by Jenni Relling. She is the owner and operator of "Perspectives Training" of Beloit. This workshop takes a fresh approach in understanding personal motivations. It will provide attendees with a personal insight to self and greater understanding of others.

The workshop is free to all Hospice Services, Inc. employees and

direct care volunteers if registered by Tuesday, Sept. 6. There is a charge for others, which will be higher if they register late. To register, call the Hospice Services' main office in Phillipsburg at 785-543-2900 or 1-800-315-5122.

Written by Julia Schemper, administrative assistant of Hospice Services Inc., Box 116, Phillipsburg, Kan. 67661. Contact her or Sandy Kuhlman at 800-315-5122.

Library adds adults', children's, audio books to collection

The Goodland Public Library has the following new books and audio books as of Sept. 1:

In adult fiction: "Dearest Dorothy, Who Would Have Ever Thought?" by Charlene Baumbich; "Pirate," by Ted Bell; "Chill Factor," by Sandra Brown; "Cold Hit," by Stephen Cannell; "Dancing in the Dark," by Mary Jane Clark; "Point Blank," by Catherine Coulter; "The Last Days of Dogtown," by Anita Diamant; "Crystal Gorge," by David Eddings; "Vanish," by Tess Gerritsen; "Belle Ruin," by Martha Grimes; "Without Mercy," by Jack Higgins; "Chill of Fear," by Kay Hooper; "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini; "Long Time Gone," by J.A. Jance; "Straight Into Darkness," by Faye Kellerman; "Dean Koontz's Frankenstein — Prodigal Son," by Dean Koontz; "No

Country for Old Men," by Cormac McCarthy; "The Interruption of Everything," by Terry McMillan; "Double Tap," by Steve Martini; "Before Sunrise," by Diana Palmer; "The Patriot's Club," by Christopher Reich; "Perfect Nightmare," by John Saul; and "Sweetwater Creek," by Anne Rivers Siddons.

In adult non-fiction: "Writer's Market — 2006 edition;" "Guinness Book of World Records — 2006 edition;" "Old Farmer's Almanac — 2006 edition;" "Don't Kiss Them Good-bye," by Allison DuBois; "The Everything Dreams Book," by Jenni Kosarin; "One Hundred People Who Are Screwing Up America," by Bernard Goldberg; "The Truth About Hillary," by Edward Klein; "Best's Key Rating Guide — Life/Health — 2005 edition;" "Natural Cures 'They' Don't

Want You to Know About," by Kevin Trudeau; "Big Book of Quilting;" "Quick and Easy Texas Hold 'em," by Neil Myers; "New Rules: Polite Musings from a Timid Observer," by Bill Maher; "The Secret Man," by Bob Woodward; and "Lance Armstrong's War," by Daniel Coyle.

In children's books: "An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving," by Louisa May Alcott; "Poppy's Return," by Avi; "Baby Noah — World Animals (Baby Einstein board book); "The Lambskins," by Eve Bunting; "Diary of a Spider," by Doreen Cronin; "Hunter and Stripe and the Soccer Showdown," by Laura Elliott; "No Matter What," by Debi Gliori; "The Postman Always Brings Mice," by Holm and Hamel; "To Scratch a Thief," by Holm and Hamel; "Eldest," by Christopher

Peolini; "Amelia Bedelia, Rocket Scientist?" by Herman Parish; and "Crane — Machines at work," by Fleur Star.

In audio books: "Chill Factor," by Sandra Brown; "Point Blank," by Catherine Coulter; "Vanish," by Tess Gerritsen; "Without Mercy," by Jack Higgins; "Chill of Fear," by Kay Hooper; "Long Time Gone," by J.A. Jance; "Double Tap," by Steve Martini; "The Patriot's Club," by Christopher Reich; "Perfect Nightmare," by John Saul; and "Sweetwater Creek," by Anne Rivers Siddons.

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Kansas' 'Fleagle Gang' Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

Today we watch Crime Scene Investigation shows about using fingerprints to find criminals. This is a true crime story from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escape.

Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Check out the on-line five-star review at Amazon.com. This book would make a great Christmas gift - order now.

Betz will be at the Greeley County Museum in Tribune at 2 p.m. (MT) on Saturday, Sept. 10; at the Finney County Museum for a picnic from 1-4 p.m. (CT) on Sunday, Oct. 2; At the El Quartelego Museum in Scott City at 7 p.m. (CT) on Saturday, Oct. 15; and at the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley on Saturday, Oct. 29.

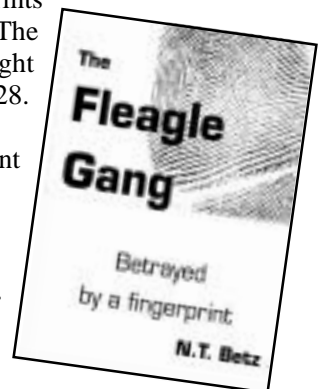
"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint — precursor to today's CSI shows — found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The book includes over 100 photos and maps taken from court files and places where the gang robbed banks. The Fleagle family lived near Friend, Kan. in Finney County.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper (1920-1989) *The Lamar Daily News* in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the Big Timbers Museum in Lamar, Colo., the Lane County Museum in Dighton, Kan., the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley, Kan., the Finney County Museum and Hastings in Garden City, Kan., the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Kan. and the Keystone Gallery north of Scott City. It is available on-line from the publisher *Authorhouse.com*, Linda Knott's new web bookstore *knottjustbooks-spreadtheword.com*, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.



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