



International Companies, Consumer Safety Tips

Kansas consumers should take extra precaution when engaging in business with international companies or individuals outside the United States. There are a number of email, phone and mail scams that promise you some service, prize winning or product, ask for immediate payment and then fail to deliver. It is difficult if not impossible to track these individuals down once money has exchanged hands.

Be on the lookout for:

- International callers (800#s, 900#s, pay-per-calls)
- Foreign lotteries (only the State of Kansas can legally operate a lottery in Kansas)
- Nigerian bank scams (requests for your personal bank account information)
- Contests and sweepstakes (consumers are told to pay “taxes,” “handling fees” or “restocking charges” before receipt of winnings)
- Loan brokers (advance fee schemes, which are illegal)
- Home improvements (money paid before work started)
- Business opportunities (large investments with no return)

Why do foreign companies want to do business in the U.S.?

- Safe jurisdictional boundaries. Scammers are difficult to track down when operating abroad.
- Some elderly individuals may be vulnerable victims
- Low cost of operation and easy mobility for these types of operations
- Drop boxes can be easily set up to collect payments
- Money can be wired and picked up at any location



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