

Topic: Scam Targeting Corporations and LLC's  
 Question by: Julia Dale  
 Jurisdiction: Michigan  
 Date: February 21, 2013

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>In Michigan we are once again receiving calls regarding a mailing of "2013 Annual Minutes Forms" sent on February 13, 2013 by Corporate Record Service, which appears to be the same as mailing and group that we had problems with in August of last year. You will find a copy of both mailings attached.</p> <p>Have any other jurisdictions received recent calls regarding this?</p>
<b>Manitoba</b>	
<b>Corporations Canada</b>	
<b>Alabama</b>	
<b>Alaska</b>	
<b>Arizona</b>	<p>We've had this going on for a couple of weeks now in Arizona. We immediately posted scam alerts on our website and we reported it to the AG's office. Our Attorney General's Office has acted quickly to look into it, even going so far as to involve the US Postal Service investigators. The USPO determined they didn't have enough grounds for a criminal action, but our AG is still looking at it. The solicitation is very cleverly worded, and doesn't leave a lot of room under our statutes.</p>
<b>Arkansas</b>	
<b>California</b>	
<b>Colorado</b>	
<b>Connecticut</b>	
<b>Delaware</b>	
<b>District of Columbia</b>	
<b>Florida</b>	
<b>Georgia</b>	
<b>Hawaii</b>	

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<b>Idaho</b>	
<b>Illinois</b>	
<b>Indiana</b>	<p>The same letter has been circulating in Indiana as well. We have put up a fraud alert on our website, and the AGs office is looking into it.</p> <p>We have not yet been contacted by anyone who has paid for the service. All of the calls thus far have just been FYIs from constituents.</p>
<b>Iowa</b>	
<b>Kansas</b>	
<b>Kentucky</b>	
<b>Louisiana</b>	<p>The same is happening in Louisiana right now. I have attached a copy of the document that is currently being mailed. We have made a press release, put an alert on our home page and notified the attorney general.</p>
<b>Maine</b>	<p>Maine was targeted last month – we turned the matter over to our AG's office. We put an alert on our webpage at - <a href="http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&amp;id=486676&amp;v=article-2011">http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/index.php?topic=Portal+News&amp;id=486676&amp;v=article-2011</a></p>
<b>Maryland</b>	
<b>Massachusetts</b>	
<b>Michigan</b>	
<b>Minnesota</b>	
<b>Mississippi</b>	
<b>Missouri</b>	
<b>Montana</b>	<p>I have no information that we have ever received any calls or questions about this particular scam in Montana. However, we are aware of it and have listed a warning on our website at <a href="http://sos.mt.gov/Business/Scams/index.asp">http://sos.mt.gov/Business/Scams/index.asp</a></p>
<b>Nebraska</b>	
<b>Nevada</b>	
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<p>New Hampshire has been getting these calls as well.</p>

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New Jersey	
New Mexico	
New York	
North Carolina	
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Oregon	<p>Oregon's in the midst of wrestling with these guys, too. Our Justice Department is pursuing the matter, after the USPS turned down our request. One tack we're taking is that these solicitations won't necessarily result in Annual Minutes and therefore are fraudulent.</p> <p>It's one thing to have "the look and feel" of a government agency but disclaim a connection, and another thing not to provide the service at all.</p>
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	
South Dakota	
Tennessee	
Texas	<p>Our office recently received a complaint regarding a "2013 Annual Minutes Form" as well. The form resembled a similar form forwarded late last year, for which we posted an alert on our website <a href="http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/corporate-records-service.shtml">http://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/corporate-records-service.shtml</a> We're currently working to make the notice active again on our website. Our office sent the entity a letter last year notifying the entity of the filing requirements with this office and received the attached letter in response from a CPA firm in Michigan. We have notified the Office of the Texas Attorney General regarding the matter as well.</p>
Utah	
Vermont	

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<b>Virginia</b>	
<b>Washington</b>	<p>We recently had rounds with potentially the same company.</p> <p>Our Attorney General was involved and has been in discussion with their attorneys.</p> <p>They would send the annual minutes form with a fee request of \$125. (very fine print that they are not a government agency)</p> <p>The customer fills out the form, sends it in, and Corporate Records Service would send back a few pages of draft minutes templates that may or may/not meet statute.</p> <p>The only solution from the AG at this time is agreement that Corporate Records Service will refund any customer that ask for one after paying the fee.</p>
<b>West Virginia</b>	
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<p>We have been receiving calls on this same mailing in Wisconsin for about a month. Some customers said they did send the completed form and money before they called us. We posted an alert on our website that it looks like a scam. It has been referred to our attorney general's office. The AG's office did file a complaint in court against the company.</p>
<b>Wyoming</b>	

**Additional comments:**

**CONTD CONVERSATION:**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:**

Good Morning all,

I was wondering if any of the states that have had a problem regarding this scam knew where Corporate Record Service obtained the data file used to mail these letters out.

Hope to see everyone in Boston!

Deb

**OHIO:**

In Ohio these letters are always sent to the statutory agents, so I assume they access this information from our public database.

Thanks,

Allison

**MICHIGAN:**

I am assuming that they took advantage of the fact that our database is available online to the public; it is not the first time we have seen such examples of data mining.

Julia Dale, Director

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Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

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**WASHINGTON:**

Washington State has a public download of the database. We're pretty sure that where they got it.

Patrick

Patrick Reed

Operations Manager

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**NORTH CAROLINA:**

I posed your question to David Kirkman, the presenter at last year's conference regarding this type of scam, he said they never did learn exactly who it was. But that it was an obscure list broker who searched our agency's database, according to their attorney.

Cheri

Cheri L. Myers

Director of Corporations

NC Office of the Secretary of State

919-807-2050

919-807-2294 fax

**FLORIDA:**

Florida offers a download of our database on a monthly and quarterly basis. No doubt, that is the source of their mailing list.

**Full text of email:**

In Michigan we are once again receiving calls regarding a mailing of "2013 Annual Minutes Forms" sent on February 13, 2013 by Corporate Record Service, which appears to be the same as mailing and group that we had problems with in August of last year. You will find a copy of both mailings attached.

Have any other jurisdictions received recent calls regarding this?

Thank you,

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