

Topic: Annual Report Filing Service/Scam

Question by: Jeff Lee

Jurisdiction: Mississippi

Date: December 16, 2019

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>Please see attached letter from a Lansing, MI operation called "CPFS." Customers in our state (only LLCs, so far) are receiving postal mail letters. This looks very similar to, if not exactly like, the scam warning by Connecticut last January (<a href="https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbia.com%2Fnews%2Fsmall-business%2Freport-filing-scam-targets-businesses%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C154c62c010274bb9d9aa08d7823ab3b1%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121061001283768&amp;sddata=cMBIGQAx8ye8vXltT25xp7aOf1O0pl8kEJyX6Hg418%3D&amp;reserved=0">https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbia.com%2Fnews%2Fsmall-business%2Freport-filing-scam-targets-businesses%2F&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C154c62c010274bb9d9aa08d7823ab3b1%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121061001283768&amp;sddata=cMBIGQAx8ye8vXltT25xp7aOf1O0pl8kEJyX6Hg418%3D&amp;reserved=0</a>). Are any of you seeing this in your state presently?</p> <p>If anyone would share how you handled similar situations in the past I would be grateful!</p> <p>Just a follow on... the MI entity is TMB Solutions, LLC and has registered several fictitious names:                      SSCP                      CPFS                      CPS Filing Services                      CPS-1                      WCS</p>
<b>Manitoba</b>	
<b>Corporations Canada</b>	
<b>Alabama</b>	
<b>Alaska</b>	
<b>Arizona</b>	
<b>Arkansas</b>	
<b>California</b>	
<b>Colorado</b>	
<b>Connecticut</b>	
<b>Delaware</b>	

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<b>District of Columbia</b>	No such letter is received here in DC so far.
<b>Florida</b>	
<b>Georgia</b>	
<b>Hawaii</b>	Hawaii LLCs' are receiving a similar annual report instruction form from C.P.S. and their service fee is \$145.00.
<b>Idaho</b>	
<b>Illinois</b>	
<b>Indiana</b>	Thanks for the heads up. I have not heard of anything in Indiana, but I'm sure it's just a matter of time. We followed Washington's example of an easy way to provide customers a comparison of what our office sends vs. the service/scam letter.
<b>Iowa</b>	We're not aware of this happening in Iowa. Thanks for the heads up.
<b>Kansas</b>	
<b>Kentucky</b>	
<b>Louisiana</b>	
<b>Maine</b>	<p>We've seen it Maine for the past few years. Here is the link to our press release - <a href="https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fnews%2F2019%2Fcorpsolicitation.html&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C7fcd976e275845a360e108d7824e7b8c%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121145912662392&amp;data=%2FQi3YohBrVmK2KuM11WxAGHsCZPo%2Fa7nkc6uL%2FYWZsM%3D&amp;reserved=0">https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fnews%2F2019%2Fcorpsolicitation.html&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C7fcd976e275845a360e108d7824e7b8c%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121145912662392&amp;data=%2FQi3YohBrVmK2KuM11WxAGHsCZPo%2Fa7nkc6uL%2FYWZsM%3D&amp;reserved=0</a></p> <p>We have also put notifications on Facebook alerting business entities about the misleading solicitation.</p>

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<b>Maryland</b>	
<b>Massachusetts</b>	
<b>Michigan</b>	<p>The Michigan Attorney General has taken action in the past, and most recently, regarding the certificate order mailing. A press release is available at: <a href="https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fag%2F0%2C4534%2C7-359-92297_47203-502929--%2C00.html&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7Cc9659637a5754f69fda808d7824fca21%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121151518053786&amp;data=FSEtCbEOKIN6WRLa6pPwhHzgAls2rcXIQfeDBJPBt9I%3D&amp;reserved=0">https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fag%2F0%2C4534%2C7-359-92297_47203-502929--%2C00.html&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7Cc9659637a5754f69fda808d7824fca21%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121151518053786&amp;data=FSEtCbEOKIN6WRLa6pPwhHzgAls2rcXIQfeDBJPBt9I%3D&amp;reserved=0</a>.</p> <p>Currently, on the Michigan Corporations Division's records, TMB Solutions LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that is authorized to transact business in Michigan.</p>
<b>Minnesota</b>	
<b>Mississippi</b>	
<b>Missouri</b>	
<b>Montana</b>	<p>Thanks for the heads up Jeff. Montana does not currently have this issue, but I think we will put something on our website to our customers to watch out for, and possibly e-blast them as well to watch out for this scam.</p>
<b>Nebraska</b>	
<b>Nevada</b>	

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<b>New Jersey</b>	
<b>New Mexico</b>	
<b>New York</b>	
<b>North Carolina</b>	
<b>North Dakota</b>	
<b>Ohio</b>	
<b>Oklahoma</b>	

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<b>Oregon</b>	<p>Oregon LLCs due for renewal are receiving a notice from W.C.S. They have also sent notices as Workplace Compliance Services and C.P.S. They charge a \$185 fee to file annual reports. Our renewal fee is \$100. They target LLC's that have not yet received our renewal notice so that their notice is received first. They have agreed to refund customers who feel like they were misled into thinking that the notice was from our office. We send a business alert email to LLCs prior to our notice being sent out and also send letters to LLCs that we have found paid the fee to W.C.S letting them know how to receive a refund if they feel they were misled. Our website is updated to include information about these misleading solicitations. <a href="https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsos.oregon.gov%2Fbusiness%2FPages%2Fdont-be-misled.aspx&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C6d481a89098a4701c9ab08d78252b250%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121164028301967&amp;data=ZrECQQpbSFwStZDQPebi9sbx0eNSYqqlvnyF94%2F1bSI%3D&amp;reserved=0">https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsos.oregon.gov%2Fbusiness%2FPages%2Fdont-be-misled.aspx&amp;data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C6d481a89098a4701c9ab08d78252b250%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121164028301967&amp;data=ZrECQQpbSFwStZDQPebi9sbx0eNSYqqlvnyF94%2F1bSI%3D&amp;reserved=0</a></p>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
<b>Rhode Island</b>	
<b>South Carolina</b>	
<b>South Dakota</b>	
<b>Tennessee</b>	
<b>Texas</b>	
<b>Utah</b>	
<b>Vermont</b>	

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<b>Virginia</b>	
<b>Washington</b>	<p>In WA we've had ongoing similar letters for a few years including the annual report mailer, a certificate order mailer, meeting minutes mailer, and labor posters.</p> <p>The AG has had success suing, but then it gets restarted soon after.</p> <p>They have a similar look and layout.</p>
<b>West Virginia</b>	
<b>Wisconsin</b>	
<b>Wyoming</b>	

**Additional comments:**

**Full text of email:**

All,  
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(<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbia.com%2Fnews%2Fsmall-business%2Freport-filing-scam-targets-businesses%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cpviverto%40azsos.gov%7C154c62c010274bb9d9aa08d7823ab3b1%7Cb4494a03f26d475dba4139871e763531%7C1%7C0%7C637121061001283768&data=cMBIGQAx8ye8vxlT25dpx7aOf1O0pl8kEJyX6Hg418%3D&reserved=0>). Are any of you seeing this in your state presently?

If anyone would share how you handled similar situations in the past I would be grateful!

Thanks,  
Jeff

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Thanks for the feedback so far!

-Jeff