

Topic: Business Scam
 Question by: Allison DeSantis
 Jurisdiction: Ohio
 Date: May 31, 2019

Jurisdiction	Question(s)
	<p>Attached is a document being sent to Ohio businesses formed recently. I believe this is quite similar to the scam we saw in the last few years where a company sent letters to new entities telling them to submit corporate minutes and a large fee, which was not required. In this case, they are now stating they will obtain a certificate of good standing for the business for \$67.50. I called the number and they said it would take 7-10 days to get the certificate. Ohio issues the Good Standings instantly online for \$5.00. We are trying to determine if this is worth referring to our AG's office for investigation and alerting our customers as a scam or if we should let this go as they might be providing a service, unlike the last case where there was no service. We are testing their statement to see if they actually send us a good standing, but that will take 7-10 days for us to find out. If they actually provide us with a certificate, then it may be different than the last situation.</p> <p>Has anyone seen this recently in your state? Are you familiar with CA Certificate Service, LLC which is the Florida LLC that registered "OH Certificate Service" as a fictitious name in Ohio?</p> <p>Also - if anyone happens to have information about litigation that resulted from the corporate minutes scam I would appreciate it if you could send it my way.</p>
Manitoba	
Corporations Canada	
Alabama	
Alaska	
Arizona	
Arkansas	
California	
Colorado	
Connecticut	
Delaware	
District of Columbia	No such letter was ever circulated in recent times among DC businesses.
Florida	

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Georgia	
Hawaii	
Idaho	
Illinois	
Indiana	
Iowa	
Kansas	
Kentucky	
Louisiana	Not in Louisiana.
Maine	
Maryland	
Massachusetts	
Michigan	<p>Attached is an example of a "2019 Certificate of Good Standing Request Form" that was sent by "MI Certificate Service" earlier this year. A Certificate of Good Standing from our office is \$10.00, and it can be ordered online and returned via email. We received telephone calls from recipients of this mailing asking if it is affiliated with our office. We have made our AG's office aware of it.</p>
Minnesota	Minnesota has not yet seen this kind of solicitation.
Mississippi	
Missouri	

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Montana	
Nebraska	
Nevada	This has not come up in Nevada recently. There was an incident several years ago, but not since.
New Hampshire	
New Jersey	
New Mexico	
New York	
North Carolina	<p>North Carolina has two schemes out right now targeting new companies. One is from the NC Council for Corporations and provides minutes services and the other one is from NC Certificate Service informing new companies that the next step is to order a Certificate of Existence.</p> <p>Cogency Global has a great webpage regarding misleading mailings at https://www.cogencyglobal.com/misleading-annual-report-compliance-solicitations</p>
North Dakota	
Ohio	
Oklahoma	
Oregon	
Pennsylvania	
Rhode Island	
South Carolina	

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South Dakota	
Tennessee	
Texas	
Utah	
Vermont	
Virginia	
Washington	<p>Washington State has been experiencing heavy volumes with this since March along with a resurgence of the Labor poster notices.</p> <p>We are working with our AG's office and have collected more than 100 samples from customers. Unfortunately, many new businesses just send the money then contact us afterward.</p>
West Virginia	
Wisconsin	
Wyoming	

Additional comments:

Full text of email:

Good Morning -

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Also - if anyone happens to have information about litigation that resulted from the corporate minutes scam I would appreciate it if you could send it my way.

Thanks!

Allison

[logo for the Office of Frank LaRose Ohio Secretary of State] Allison DeSantis | Director of Business Services and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

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OhioSoS.gov<<https://OhioSoS.gov/>>