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STENEHJEM HALTS PHONY YELLOW PAGES SCAM

Cease & Desist Order Issued against “Official Yellow Pages”

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has issued a Cease and Desist Order against OYP Group aka Official Yellow Pages and its principals Grant Jamieson, Claude Berthiaume, Karl Garon, Rebecca Donalds and Marc Lafroamboise aka Marc Lefebvre. North Dakota residents allege OYP Group contacted them by telephone and represented that OYP Group was a local yellow pages provider; in fact, the operation is based in Montreal, Quebec and does not publish a local directory.

OYP Group followed up the telephone calls by sending fraudulent invoices claiming the business owed between \$399.95 to \$487.95 for a two-year listing. Even though the businesses asserted they did not authorize a listing of their business with OYP Group, they were not able to cancel the unauthorized listings. Many businesses were harassed regarding unpaid "invoices" or threatened with collection and legal action. Repeated attempts by the Attorney General to contact OYP Group were ignored.

"Businesses are inundated with solicitations and bills," said Stenehjem. "Scammers like OYP Group exploit that fact to submit bogus invoices in the hope they will get paid along with the legitimate ones."

The Cease & Desist Order prohibits OYP Group and its principals from conducting any further solicitations or advertising in the state. The Order also bars them from taking or collecting any payments from the fraudulent invoices.

The Attorney General's investigation revealed OYP Group and its principals appear to be associated with, if not the same enterprise as, Thompson Hill Publishing dba "The Official Yellow Pages." Stenehjem previously issued a cease and desist order against Karl Garon, Kevin Secours and Brian Norberg and Thompson Hill Publishing dba "The Official Yellow Pages" on July 19, 2007 for similar illegal conduct.

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