

February 21, 2013

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES CEASE & DESIST ORDER AGAINST MICHAEL HILGAR, ELITE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS & WORLDWIDE INFO SERVICES**

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today issued a Cease and Desist Order against Michael Hilgar of Florida, and Elite Information Solutions, Inc. and Worldwide Info Services, Inc., for alleged violations of North Dakota’s consumer fraud and do-not-call laws, and for failure to respond to a Civil Investigative Demand. Hilgar is the President of Elite and Worldwide.

After receiving numerous complaints regarding illegal telephone solicitations for medical alert systems, Stenehjem directed his Consumer Protection Division to investigate Hilgar and his company, Elite, to obtain answers to questions about their business practices. “I am concerned about allegations indicating that Hilgar’s businesses are misrepresenting the cost of the medical alert devices and monitoring services they are selling, are using illegal telephone solicitations to sell them, and that they have failed to properly respond to the Civil Investigative Demand or cooperate with the investigation,” Stenehjem said.

These businesses sell medical alert devices and monitoring services through telephone solicitations. During the solicitations, representatives claim that the individual was selected to receive a free medical alert system, but there is a monthly fee for the monitoring service. The representatives attempted to deceive consumers by claiming that the medical alert device was affiliated with more well-known businesses. The Attorney General also alleges the businesses made unlawful calls to telephone subscribers registered on the do-not-call list. The telephone solicitations use spoofing technology to display a 701-area code telephone number on the consumer’s caller identification system, in an attempt to make consumers believe the company is located within the state.

According to Parrell Grossman, director of the Consumer Protection Division, consumers should be wary of unsolicited telephone calls offering “free” products or services. “The hook is the offer of a free product but you will then be required to pay a monthly fee for a service you may not need at an inflated price,” Grossman said. “High pressure sales tactics should be a red-flag for a likely scam.”

North Dakota consumers who have not already filed a complaint about these solicitations for medical alert systems can submit a complaint form from the Attorney General’s website at [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov), or by contacting the Consumer Protection Division at 701-328-3404.

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[Cease and Desist](#)