

NEWS RELEASE

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FRAUDULENT GRANT ASSISTANCE COMPANY BANNED IN NORTH DAKOTA

BISMARCK, ND – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem issued a Cease & Desist order against Jeremy Silvers of Mesa, AZ, doing business as Premium Business Solutions, LLC, for violations of the consumer fraud laws relating to fraudulent grant assistance solicitations.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection division initiated an investigation after an elderly consumer complained about fraudulent charges made to her credit card. The consumer said Silver's company promised her that she would be able to get a grant to help her pay her credit card debt. Instead, Premium Business Solutions charged her credit card \$2,450, and she only received a booklet about grants.

When investigators contacted Silvers about the complaint he initially appeared cooperative, but failed to provide documentation and then ignored the investigators' further calls and letters. Investigators then learned that Silvers had instead made contact with the consumer directly, made additional promises to her about other grant opportunities, and asked her to sign a new agreement and withdraw her complaint.

"Mr. Silver's behavior is reprehensible. First, he takes advantage of an individual, and then, when he is caught, he tries to trick her into dropping the complaint in exchange for receiving additional worthless information," said Stenehjem.

Parrell Grossman, director of the consumer protection division, reminded North Dakotans that no legitimate grant provider will ask for your credit card information. "If you have to give a credit card or are asked to pay anything up front, it is not grant – it's a scam," he said.

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