

Scammers Spoofing BBB and Chamber of Commerce to Collect “Dues”

Over the weekend the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York was alerted to a scam that is going on in other parts of the country but could pop up here at any time.

[Complete BBB Article](#)

It's always good to stay ahead of the scammers. The full article is also listed below. If you have any questions, please give the Chamber a call 716-372-4433. Thanks!



Scammers Spoofing BBB and Chamber of Commerce to Collect “Dues”

There are countless variations on phony debt collection scams, and the latest has scammers pretending to be the Better Business Bureau (BBB) or the Chamber of Commerce to try to trick businesses into paying “overdue fees.”

BBB serving Nebraska, South Dakota, The Kansas Plains and Southwest Iowa is one of the BBBs that has received reports from BBB Accredited Businesses that have been contacted by these scam artists.

One Wichita business owner said he received a call from a woman claiming to be with the BBB asking if he was planning to renew his Accreditation for \$399. He asked the caller if she was in BBB's Wichita office, and she replied that she was calling from California. He told her that he goes to the BBB office to pay, and he wasn't going to pay over the phone. Unfortunately, the caller's phone number was blocked, so he had nothing to indicate who was calling or where the call came from.

Another business reported a similar incident to BBB Scam Tracker. The business received an email saying “Hi, Please see below the list of overdue invoices, of which \$2,393.95 is due since last month.” The email included a link to a payment site that is not associated with BBB and could be malicious.

A related scam is targeting Chambers of Commerce. A Wichita businessman

described receiving a call from a man using the name "Bocca Deli" who was posing as an employee of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. The caller requested the names of employees and owners at the company. BBB confirmed that this caller was not associated with the Chamber and was phishing for information about members.

Other businesses across the country have also reported that they were contacted by individuals posing as BBB and Chamber employees. In addition to trying to extract money from the businesses, the scammers also try to get personally identifiable information by claiming that they need to update a company's contact information, address, and payment information. They then use the information to perpetrate fraud.

While a BBB office may contact a business for a variety of reasons, you should never give personal or financial information over the phone during an unsolicited call from someone you do not know. A caller from a legitimate partner, such as BBB or the Chamber of Commerce, will not be offended if you tell them you want to contact them through a main number. End the call and call back through the number in your records or the number on the organization's website.

BBB serving Nebraska, South Dakota, The Kansas Plains and Southwest Iowa contributed to this report.



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