

JOB OFFER SCAM CHECK

Job Offer Email — Scam Check

Print this. Stick it on the fridge. Or save it to your phone.

Quick Risk Checklist — Tick Any That Apply

- You didn't apply for this job and don't recognize the "recruiter."
- The role is vague ("customer success", "data entry", "personal assistant") but pay is unusually high.
- Interview is text-only or on a chat app — never video, never voice.
- They send a check to deposit so you can "buy equipment" or pay a "vendor."
- The job involves receiving packages and re-shipping them, or accepting money and forwarding it.
- The sender domain is gmail / yahoo / outlook, not a real company domain.

What To Do Right Now

- Don't deposit any check they send you. Fake check scams are the #1 employment fraud — the check bounces a week later and you owe the bank.
- Don't ship packages or forward money from the "employer." That's package mule / money mule work — both are federal crimes regardless of whether you knew.
- Look up the company independently. Search LinkedIn, the BBB, the SEC EDGAR (for public companies). If you can't verify the company exists, it doesn't.
- Report at reportfraud.ftc.gov and ic3.gov.

How To Verify Safely

- Search the company independently. LinkedIn page with real employees, a company website you can verify on whois.com, real BBB profile, real Glassdoor reviews.
- Insist on video interviews. Scammers refuse video. Real employers use Zoom, Teams, or Google Meet.
- Never pay anything to start a job. No deposit, no equipment purchase, no "training fee." Real employers send YOU equipment.
- Check the email domain. Real recruiters use @companyname.com. Gmail/Outlook recruiter accounts are a major red flag for established companies.

Where To Report It

- FTC Consumer Fraud — reportfraud.ftc.gov ■
- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center — ic3.gov ■
- USPIIS (If Shipping Was Involved) — uspis.gov/report ■
- BBB Scam Tracker — bbb.org/scamtracker ■

If You Already...

- Deposited A Check — see [/recovery/deposited-fake-check/](#)
- Bought Equipment / Gift Cards — see [/recovery/sent-money/](#)
- Shipped A Package — see [/recovery/shipped-package-for-scam/](#)
- Shared Bank Info — see [/recovery/shared-bank-info/](#)
- Shared Personal Info / ID — see [/recovery/shared-personal-info/](#)
- Forwarded Money — see [/recovery/sent-money/](#)