

From: Attorney General
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 10:23 AM
To:
Subject: Scam Alert: Timeshare Nightmare



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

SCAM ALERT

A Consumer Protection Alert from Oregon Attorney General John Kroger

Consumer Protection Hotline: 1-877-877-9392

Online: www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov

NEW! Look up consumer complaints about businesses online: www.oregonattorneygeneral.gov/beinformed

Dear ,

Thank you again for joining the [Oregon Scam Alert Network](#). Please feel free to forward this email and encourage your family members, friends and colleagues to join the network too. Together we can fight fraud and help protect Oregonians from falling prey to predatory schemes.

Also, you can now look up the complaints we receive about businesses! Please check out our new consumer resource: [Be InfORmed](#).

BUYER BEWARE: TIMESHARE NIGHTMARE

Attorney General John Kroger warns Oregonians to be wary of unscrupulous offers to sell timeshare properties.

Property owners are reporting contact from dishonest companies with legitimate-sounding names, such as International Timeshare Consolidators (ITC). These companies mislead consumers by offering to help to sell their vacation properties. Posing as an agent or broker, the fraudster will produce an appraisal or offer a very generous bid for the timeshare or vacation property. Before the sale is finalized, the consumer will be told that they owe taxes or administrative fees. Once the property owner has provided their financial information, paid the "fees" or other charges, the broker or agent will vanish without a trace.

Unfortunately, as with many other scams, it can be almost impossible to locate the culprit. According to the [Better Business Bureau](#), the address ITC deceitfully provided to consumers has received stacks of undeliverable mail, and countless visits from stunned customers.

If you are a timeshare owner and someone contacts you offering assistance with the sale of your property, take the following precautions to reduce the risk of falling for a scam:

- As a general rule, never give your credit card number or other personal information over the phone;
- Be wary of companies that charge up-front fees of any kind. Consider opting for a company that offers to sell for a fee only after the timeshare is sold;
- Ask them to send you written materials and make sure they corroborate any offers made over the phone;
- Do your research before transacting business with any company and compare their offers to industry competition;
- Verify the business address and phone number and contact them yourself;
- Ask if the company's salespeople are licensed to sell real estate where your timeshare is located. If so, verify this with the State Real Estate Agency [licensee search](#); and
- Check whether the Department of Justice has received any complaints about a company using our new online search tool [Be InfORmed](#).

Oregonians can protect themselves from receiving solicitation calls by registering both landline and mobile telephone numbers on the National "Do Not Call" Registry.

Consumers may call toll-free at 1-888-382-1222 or sign up online at www.donotcall.gov. Registration is free.

The Oregon Department of Justice would like to thank Oregon State Representative Andy Olson's office for bringing this scam to our attention.

Quick Links

[DOJ Web Site](#)

[Sign Up for the Scam Alert Network](#)

[Be InfORmed: Search Consumer Complaints Online](#)

[File a Consumer Complaint](#)

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Oregon Attorney General's Office | 1162 Court St NE | Salem | OR | 97301

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