



Don't Be the Victim of a Reshipping Scam!

Have you been asked to receive packages at your home or business and mail them to someone else? Postal Inspectors advise: Don't do it!

Criminals who conduct reshipping scams recruit victims through a variation of one of these scenarios:

Work-at-Home Scams

Criminals often post phony job announcements at Internet career sites, offering positions such as "merchandising manager," "package processing assistant," or a similar title. Job duties generally include receiving packages and mailing them to a foreign address on behalf of a client. The websites may look legitimate, and they may offer to send you postage-paid mailing labels.

The real story? The offers come from criminals who buy merchandise with stolen credit cards and need help smuggling the goods out of the country. Even the mailing labels are phony. And you are committing a felony when you help out these criminals.

Sweetheart Scams

The same criminals operating work-at-home scams often lurk on dating websites. They send a few e-mails to get to know you, and may even send a photo or flowers. Once they have your attention, they ask you to help their business or family by shipping packages to Europe or Africa.

The real story? You're being asked to commit a crime by smuggling stolen goods. The photo may look like your perfect match, but it's a fake—and could be the picture of your worst nightmare.

Charity Scams

Charity scams are just another method of tricking innocent people into mailing stolen goods. The scammers ask for your help forwarding “donated” merchandise. You receive packages mailed under multiple names, as well as labels for a charity in Africa or another part of the world.

The real story? It's another ploy to trick people into moving stolen merchandise out of the country.

What should you do if you've been tricked into one of these scams?

- Don't accept packages at your address for people you don't know.
- Stop all communication with operators who try to solicit your help in reshipping items.
- If you already have merchandise from such an offer, don't mail it.
- Keep all correspondence (e-mails, faxes, etc.) related to these scams.
- Contact Postal Inspectors at 1-877-876-2455. They'll help you return stolen items back to the proper owners.

For more information about reshipping and other fraud, visit our website at <http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/>