

We represent a collective of Ogboni lledi, Ifa Orisa community elders, women , lyami and Aje who are concerned about reports regarding:

Mercedes Morgana Reyes Bonilla Cordova (Fakinsuy'laje Afrimaako)

selling fraudulent lyami initiations in the Yoruba Isese religion. It is not so much of Initiating women in an lyami Egbe so much as it is of the massive campaign to lie and deceive others under false pretenses for financial gain. This amounts to religious fraud and is of grave concern because our religion is so fragile especially in regard to lyami and our Mothers and we can't afford to continue to allow this level of abuse and deception to go unchecked. That it is a woman is especially hurtful because she is victimizing other women's desire to understand the deep wisdom of the mothers sincerely and who under the guise of supposedly being an advocate for them. Onile is always watching though and knows. Edan knows. Osun Knows. Yemaya knows, Oya knows. Our mothers of justice are ancient and not to be trifled with! Mercedes has been given ample warning to discontinue these dishonest and manipulative acts and has refused to back down in the name of greed and selfishness. Now comes the repercussions.

We invite the community to read through the documentation provided in 16 pages and judge for yourselves the depth of these deceptions. If you feel you have been a victim of this woman, you may go to the end of the document for ways to legally report it to the proper authorities. In the United States of America, this is considered a federal crime given it has happened across state lines and involves tens of thousands of dollars from numerous victims. She has reportedly victimized individuals from a number of other countries as well and those should be reported to the proper authorities of those countries.



Based on direct reports of people who have spoken to her, received fake initiation by her, as well as her website (s) the following public and private comments have been documented:

1. She indicated she received initiations in Ota, Nigeria as a teen ager or young adult. Depending on the person, the time spent there ranged from 3 months to 1 year. In some cases she indicated that it was her mother who stayed in Ota and that she is who initiated her.
2. She has stated that her godmother is Iyalode Eguntossi of Ota, Nigeria. You have posted letters supposedly to be from her authorizing only you to be her representative and by extension Ota's representative for Iyami outside of Africa.
3. She has stated separately to some of her initiates that Akua Yewande from Ota, Nigeria is her godmother as noted in a fake Facebook profile page. She has sent fake messages from said Fake Facebook page pretending to be her.
4. She has received fees ranging from \$4000-12,000 per person amounting to nearly \$100,000 or more for supposed Iyami /Iyalaje initiations in a Ota lineage.
5. Reports from several people initiated by her that have indicated that they have received no training in any aspect of Iyami or Akose. In fact, many report no further contact from her at all.
6. She uses the following Facebook pages to draw people in and convince them to pay her significant amounts of money for these highly exclusive "initiations" that are supposed to be the only valid extensions of Ota Iyami that she has exclusive rights to give and authorize. As this document gets out, these are likely to be dismantled but may show up elsewhere.
 - a. <https://www.facebook.com/azramedea>
 - b. <https://www.facebook.com/ajeiyamihouseofharmony/>
 - c. <https://www.facebook.com/Egbe-Aje-Iyami-Temple-Worldwide-561849247305626/>
 - d. <https://www.egbeajeiyami.com/> (Now dismantled by Wix due to copyright Infringement as of Dec 2018)

In an effort to seek clarity about those claims, we have contacted the Elders in Ota, Nigeria and the Ota elders report the following:

1. There is no knowledge of Mercedes, her Iyami initiation, her mother's initiation, nor her Egbe Iyami Aje Worldwide nor has she ever been affiliated with Iyami in Ota at any time.
2. There is no history nor knowledge of an Iyalode Eguntossi nor of Ala Efun III in Ota, nor Akua Yewande, her supposed elders from Ota, Nigeria.
3. Her comments about them and your association with Ota is a complete fabrication.
4. Numerous pictures have been posted to the Egbe Iyami facebook page indicating a false history and association with Iyami in Ota. These photos are taken from other websites and used to give an impression of true relationships and insider knowledge with Ota.

When in fact they are random photos of women from Africa or Nigeria with no association with information proclaimed on the post.

Further, a picture that she has posted which is supposed to be of her elder Ala Ofun in Ota, has been documented and proven to be of Agatha Inyanma Emeagwali, an Igbo woman from Onitsha in 1977. This fact was documented by her son, Phillip Emeagwali on his website, the place where this photo originated.

The picture and Facebook page created under the guise of Akua Yewande is also fabricated. The picture is of a prominent elder, the late Nana Okomfohene Oparebea of Larteh, Ghana. Not to mention the name Akua is Ghanaian. She is no where near Ota and the elder of a number of Akan priests in the US .

The pictures of so called carvings and statues that she suggested were from a burned temple in Ota were not in fact even Nigerian, but part of an **elaborate scheme to fake authenticity to deceive others for money.**

Copyright Infringement

Further information of massive deception includes **extensive copyright infringement of published works on her websites and use of these materials to give impression of in depth knowledge of the inner workings of Iyami when, in fact, they were stolen without credit by several authors.**

Some works include works The Architects of Existence: Aje in Yoruba Cosmology, Ontology, and Orature and Our Mothers, Our Powers, Our Texts: Manifestations of Aje in Africana Literature. In fact, over 246 violations have been reported to Facebook and her website EgbeAjeiyami.com has been shut down due to the extensive infringement of copyrights of author Teresa Washington. To cover her trail of the issue, she indicated it was a hack and the mothers didn't want her to share information when, in fact, it was a legal and ethical violation that made the mothers turn their backs and Wix to shut her down.

The link to the websites that documents the extent of the plagiarism is here:

<https://adayfortheowner.wixsite.com/mysite>

<http://www.oyastornado.com/fraud-alert.html>

The fake pictures, the extensive plagiarism, and fake Facebook webpages and posts, in addition to the obvious fabricated stories about her godmother and lineage demonstrates the extent she has taken to create a false lineage, a false history, and false initiation. The evidence overwhelmingly demonstrate that she has:

1. Intentionally exploited women financially and spiritually in the name of Iyami for her personal gain. This amounts to religious fraud and taking advantage of others who are not familiar with the actual process.
2. Fraudulently misrepresented herself and spiritual lineage to gain credibility in order to fraud others financially.
3. Provided fake initiations to a lineage that cannot be proven or validated by anyone of that lineage.
4. Legally committed fraud by willfully deceiving others through false claims with the intention of benefiting financially. Because she has received large sums of money upwards near over \$100,000 across state lines and via digital transfer, this constitutes a federal crime in the United States of America and in European countries as well. These claims have now been reported to the FBI and Federal Trade Commission for fraud.
5. Has committed grave offenses against Awon Iya Wa, women and the Iyami Aje community worldwide, as well as the elders of Ota.

Evidence Documents



Egbe Aje Iyami Temple of America shared a photo.
April 10, 2015 · 🌐

It is with a heavy heart I announce the passing of our beloved Iyalode Ala Ofun III in Ota, Nigeria yesterday afternoon. She was a pioneer always defending women's rights, she taught me to be a better woman and the importance of Iwa Pele to be a better human being and priestess. May your journey back to the Mothers womb be blessed just as your life was. With every death comes a birth, a new beginning I would also like to congratulate my godmother Iyalode Eguntossi she is now our elder and an awesome woman, may your reign be prosperous and blessed always!



Egbe Aje Iyami Temple of America
November 25, 2014 · 🌐

A priestess is a woman who helps others connect to the Divine so that they can heal and actualize their soul's path. Typically, she will use ceremony to accomplish this task, she will represent our religion. When it comes to connecting to the Divine, she knows on a deep level that her personal relationship with Spirit trumps any organized path to it. We will sum it up as a woman who travels in the soul, and carries herself gracefully, knowing she is standing in the shoulders of the women that went before her. In our religion a priestess should never abuse her office in any way. In a sense we have more responsibility because as women we are born complete. We have the weight of the world on our shoulders but we are happy to serve always. Photo: Iyalode Ala Ofun III 1960

*** This is collected documentation of Mercedes fraudulently representing herself with false claims of initiations, affiliations, a fake lineage with the intention of deceiving others for financial gain. To date, we have evidence that she has received from \$6000 to \$12000 per person from numerous individuals that she has deceived into believing they were receiving authentic initiations when in fact it has been a premeditated complete fabrication since inception.

Indicated that this was the Iyalode of Ota and her name is Ola Ofun. This is the mother of Phillip Emeagwali, an Igbo woman and her name is Agatha Inyanma Emeagwali, an Igbo woman from Onitsha in 1977. This fact was documented by her son, Phillip Emeagwali on his website, the place where this photo originated.

http://emeagwali.com/photoessays/agatha-emeagwali/?fbclid=IwAR2SQEH-eKK7CsWJP6UoEA0Nq0m1t968OSeKYHvE0J1_WUMBPNIsILj_dDM

Phillip Emeagwali mother Agatha Emeagwali posted on his website. She is an Igbo woman and crossed over in the late 90's

emeagwali.com

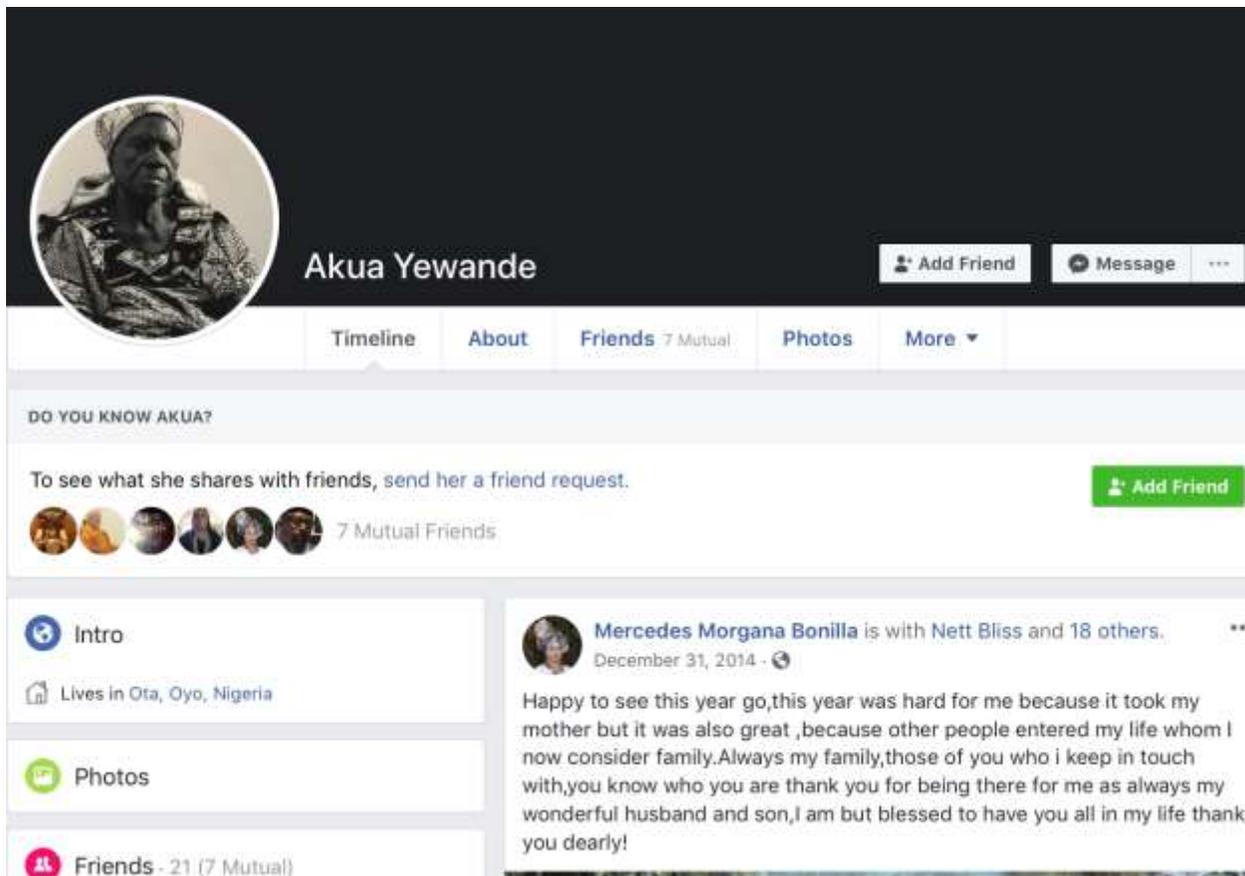


Photo taken during Dad's (*Akionwata* James Nnaemeka Emeagwali) *ichi ozo* initiation into the Ozo Agbalanze of Onitsha Ado n'idu. *Ichi ozo* is a celebration of achievement and wealth that also elevates the initiates social status. (Taken at Emeagwali ancestral home, Mba Road, Umudei village, Onitsha, 1977).

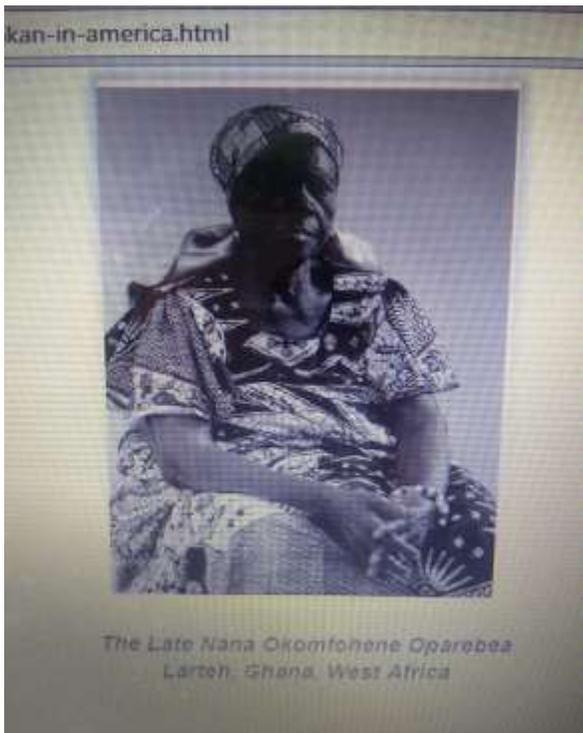
Below is a part of the documents given several women who she initiated. She told these women this was her Godmother in Ota as a part of her and their lineage. She told them that her name is Akua Yewande. She created a fake Facebook page with this picture and sent out emails and responded to emails as if she was her. Facebook page is here

<https://www.facebook.com/akuayewa>





Above: Fake Facebook page of supposed elder Akua Yewande



She is actually the Late Okomfohene Oparebea from Larteh, Ghana West Africa. A photo copied to build on the lie created about her.

[This is from a photo on Trip Down Memory Lane and it documents she is the Akuapem matriarch](#)

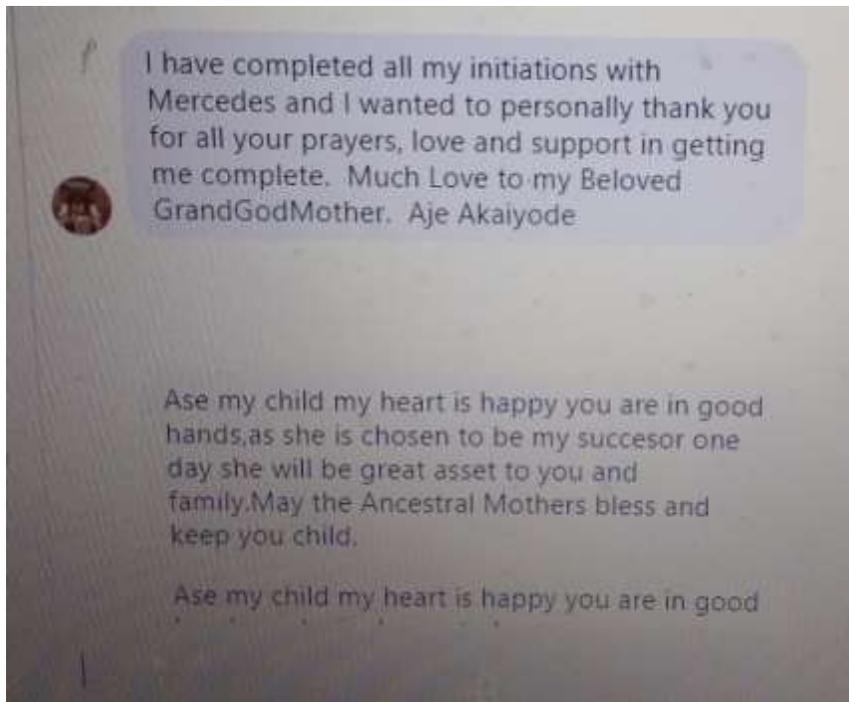
<https://kwekudee-tripdownmemorylane.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-akuapem-people-are-amalgamation-of.html?fbclid=IwAR1CaETWGNc1TvhW87nCjdENECtDoIKt0cpD26KoosasAo3Hc12yjVhGzZQ>



<https://www.atscoalition.org/fullscreen-page/comp-jdrbk22x/a0d96e26-5d9b-4003-a5bb-c15da226cc7f/0/%3Fi%3D0%26p%3Dfgu06%26s%3Dstyle-jfddoflb>

In the above websites, it documents Nana Okomfohene Oberabea
Below is another documentation with the picture that Mercedes used on her fake facebook page

<http://akbsankofa.blogspot.com/2011/04/introduction-akan-in-america.html>



Here is a recount of what was sent to a person she defrauded after she contacted Akua Yéwándé on Facebook to thank her for the initiation she received from Mercedes. A response from a fake “Akua Yewande” was sent through a fake profile to her indicating that Mercedes is her chosen successor.



Egbe Aje Iyami Temple Worldwide

November 24, 2015 · 🌐

👍 Like Page



Thank you for your kind words madrina!

Akua Yewande

Nov 24th, 1:54pm

In 1998 this little girl came to my life ,I thank the Mothers she did,Iyanifa Fakinsuyil'Aje was made Iyalode of our Egbe in Otta by decree of Iyalode Ala Ofun III ibae now she will act as my link to the world she is the only one with my permission outside of Africa to officiate initiations in my behalf,she is my mouth,hands and ears outside of Africa and I could not be prouder of what she has accomplished,may the Mothers protect you all .Iyalode Eguntossi.

👍❤️ 16

1 Share

The above is a post supposedly making her Iyalode of Egbe Iyami in Ota and by another made up person Iyalode Eguntoss and from a third made up person Akua Yewande.

People

See All



Akua Yewande

Ota, Oyo, Nigeria

Lives in Ota, Oyo, Nigeria

7 mutual friends including Iyaonifa Ale Fasunbo Aworeni and Annitra

Add Friend



See All



Mercedes Morgana Bonilla shared a photo.

October 30, 2013 at 9:12 AM · 🌐

...dia! Congratulations to all of Yewas children on the Earth specially my godmother **Akua Yewande** may our mother bless you with many more... [See More](#)



Mercedes Morgana Bonilla's Post

👍 Joy King, Yewa Alaye and 11 others

La Trigueña and 4 others liked this post



Egbe Aje Iyami Temple Worldwide

November 24, 2015 at 11:57 AM · 🌐

Thank you for your kind words madrina! **Akua Yewande** Nov 24th, 1:54pm In 1998 this little girl came to my life ,I thank the Mothers she did, Iyanifa Fakinsuyil'Aje was made Iyalode of our Egbe in Otta by decree of Iyalode Ala Ofun III ibae now she will act as my link to the... [See More](#)

👍❤️ 16

1 Share



Mercedes Morgana Bonilla shared a photo.

May 11, 2014 at 4:44 AM · 🌐

...**Akua Yewande**, Angeles Mafuz, Ivonne Iraola, Joan, Negui Ibae and many others I feel blessed for having known these women.



Mercedes Morgana Bonilla's Post

👍 Carlos Arias, Joy King and 27 others

6 Comments

A Facebook search reveals the above comments about Akua Yewande by Mercedes tying her to these pages and her declaration of her being her god mother.

This was written in May 2017 by Mercedes in a FB Post indicating that she was in Ota in 1991 at 17 years old. There is no Yewa priesthood in Ota. There is no record of a Gelede or Iyami initiation in Ota.



Mercedes Morgana Cordova

My Godmother is Chief Iyalode Eguntossi I was crowned 26years ago to the priesthood of Yewa in Ota ,Nigeria I was also welcomed in the Egbe Aje Iyami ,Holy Gelede Women's Society in which I now run in America,My Grandmother is Okearo made by Ferminita Gomez she and a handful of Women brought the religion to NY

As this year is one of reckoning of frauds and scammers in our tradition, This is from our Ancient Odu Ifa Literary Corpus recited this year in Ile Ife.

Irete Ka

Ifa says that people should work hard and stop stealing or sabotaging the sweat of others people. In addition, those who steal the belongings of other people will be captured.

In this, Ifa says:

Ateka awo Onikanranjangbon

A difa fun Onikanranjangbon

To n roko alere lodun

O doko or gbinla

O doko or gbinkan

Bi oloko ti n ka ila

Bee ni ole n ka ila

Bi oloko ti n ka ikan

bee ni ole ka ikan

Onikan yii rora

Kananranjangbon!

iwo ka

Emi ka

Kananranjangbon!

Temi is dependent?

Kananranjangbon!

Epe kan or pa ahun

Kananranjangbon!

Owo wa ba Alabahun Ionii o

Owo oloko ba Alabahun Olé!

Owo oloko ba Alabahun

Ateka the priest of Kananranjangbon

Ifa fortuneteller for onikanranjangbon

When embarking on agriculture

He planted ila, the okra

He planted the eggs, the garden egg.

As a farmer plucked to ila, the okra So the thief plucked ila, the okra

As the farmer tore the eggs, the egg from the garden

So the thief tore the eggs from the garden

The Farmer-Egg-Farmer,

be patient There is no hardness cause!

You have harvested I have also harvested.

There is no hardness cause!

Why are you cursing me?

There is no hardness cause!

No curse can have an effect on the turtle.

There is no hardness cause!

The turtle is trapped today.

The farmer has captured the turtle The turtle, the thief.

The farmer has captured the turtle

Ifa warns against Fraudsters . You will receive the wrath of the ancestors .

In this, Ifa says:

Pete n bole

Ebole n pete

Olukirikiri n biti

ka su olelé disa eku

ka su olelé disa eja

ka su olele disa eera keekeke

A difa fun Olaminu or Ipapo

Omo a-gun-poroporo mole ile mu

Nijo won ni n boogun oba lekee

Nijo won ni n boosa odi f Ooni

Or ni bi mo ba boogun oba leekee

O ni bi mo ba boosa odi fooni

Ase dowo ile danda

Omode or loogun

Alale! The oo maa sa Alale!

Gbogbo alaworo isope

E sare wa ke wa wobi ti mo so.

To dress the floor without problems

To shine in an attractive way

We're going to use olelé to cover the rat hole

We are going to use olelé to cover the fish hole

We are going to use olelé to cover the hole of ants

Ifa revelation to olaminu in the city of ipapo

The one who delivers things for the magicians of the home to drink

When he was accused of appeasing the king's egúngún with deceits

When they accused him of unjustly appeasing Orisa by ooni

He said that if he is appeasing the king's egúngún with deceit

He said that if he is wrong to appease Orisa by ooni

Let mother earth be my judge

Young people have no medicinal power

The ancestors! They are going to call.

The ancestors!

All the priests of ope

Come and see the kola nuts that I throw



Egbe Aje Iyami Temple Worldwide

Like Page

January 2 · 🌐

The Odu of the year has been cast for the Ile Oriro Teere in NM it is Ogunda Ogbe .With this said it is a year governed by Oggun and Ochanla,with Esu and the Arara Orisas helping.It is a year that we have to guard our traditions and religion against people from other religions trying to erase our traditions this is one of the only odus that mentions a group by name it says:

"The dishonest traveled for 26 years and failed to return.The dishonest traveled for 6months more and failed to return.Honesty is the best policy divined Ifa for Baba Imale(muslim),who was clothed in flowing robes.He was told he would be a liar all his life.He was asked to sacrifice but he refused to do so.Up till today the imale(Muslims)are still lying.They are always saying that they are fasting annually for God.One day Esu asked them why they had been saying that they were fasting for God annually.Are you saying God is dead?Or is God sad?Do you not realize that God is the innate truth?He (Esu)saidHen!You fast for God;God never dies.Edumare is never sick.Olodumare is never sad.Esu was forced to disperse all of them(this is why they speak different languages and don't understand each other)The song Esu Sang on that day was:We have never heard of Olodumare's death,but that of the dishonest."

The irony is so apparent that her own delusions and dishonesty was not missed. A post about an Odu pulled for her very own Ile... Ile Oriro.

Her dishonesty has now called the attention of the wrath of the Mothers, Ifa, Orisa, the community, her own Ori, and the Federal Government.

I was a victim of Mercedes!

What can I do now that I spent the money and thought I was getting what I paid for.

If you have been frauded by this woman, have issued any electronic payments and wish to pursue legal avenues to attempt to recover your funds, these are the following options for you. Please recover any receipts or documentation of written conversations and financial transaction ASAP as some things may be erased or deleted as this information gets out. Also gather any witnesses ,written statements to document your interactions with her. Indicate time date, other witnesses, promises, and failures that occurred.

Complaint to Federal Trade Commission for Scams, Internet services,

<https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/Information#crnt&panel1-6>

To **report Fraud to Paypal** you may report that she misrepresented herself and her services. If you sent a payment but haven't received what you paid for, or believe the seller to be fraudulent, you should visit our Resolution Center. We've developed several programs to help protect you, and opening a dispute is the first step to help get your problem resolved. Here's how:

Go to the Resolution Center.

Click Report a Problem.

Select the transaction you want to dispute.

Click Continue.

Select either I didn't receive an item I purchased or the item I received was significantly not as described or I want to report unauthorized activity, depending on the nature of your dispute.

Click Continue.

Follow the instructions to file your dispute.

You may file a complaint with the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center

The FBI identifies internet crime as the following:

Internet crime includes any illegal activity involving one or more components of the Internet, such as websites, chat rooms, and/or email. Internet crime involves the use of the Internet to communicate false or fraudulent representations to consumers. These crimes may include, but are not limited to, advance-fee schemes, non-delivery of goods or services, computer hacking, or employment/business opportunity schemes.

<https://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>