

Kimberly R. Snavely

From: Mississippi Secretary of State <mssos@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:01 PM
To: Kimberly R. Snavely
Subject: Lawsuit Filed Against Company Accused In Ongoing Business Scam



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT : Business Services Division

August 13, 2020

customerservice@sos.ms.gov

Lawsuit Filed Against Company Accused In Ongoing Business Scam

JACKSON – After investigating data and concerns brought forth by our office, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office (AG) has filed a lawsuit against Centurion Filing Services, LLC, for alleged deceptive solicitations targeting new Mississippi businesses. This action follows countless complaints to our [Business Services Division](#) and a cease-and-desist letter from the AG's Office, to which the company has not responded.

"This scam has affected more than 2,700 of our small businesses," said Secretary of State Michael Watson. "The COVID-19 pandemic continues to hinder our business community, and no Mississippian should face the additional nightmare of becoming a victim of fraud. I'm proud of my team for working diligently to gather the facts in this case, and I'm thankful for the Attorney General's partnership in bringing justice those who have been impacted."

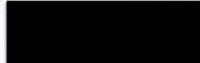
[Our office first received reports about Centurion Filing Services, LLC, in February.](#) According to customers, the company, which operates under the fictitious name, MS Certificate Service, targets new businesses by sending a misleading "2020 Certificate of Existence Request Form" through the mail (see image below). The misleading document encourages business owners to pay a \$90.50 fee to receive a Mississippi Certificate of Existence. As of today, the scammers have profited between \$170,000 and \$260,000.

Mississippi businesses can receive a Certificate of Good Standing from our website, sos.ms.gov. Online processing costs \$25 and the certificate is available immediately after purchase.

Businesses may report deceptive or misleading solicitations such as these to our [Business Services Division](#) at (601) 359-1633, or the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-800-281-4418 or consumer@ago.ms.gov.

###

The solicitation below is NOT sent or authorized by our office. Registered businesses in Mississippi do not have to respond or send payment to the third party, MS Certificate Service.

2020 CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE REQUEST FORM		
	MS Certificate Service 665 S Pear Orchard Road Suite 106-229 Ridgeland, MS 39157	QUESTIONS?  PLEASE EMAIL: records@certificatefilingservice.com OR CALL TOLL FREE 1-866-301-2738
IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.		
Key Code: MS-39465-9205-23	Notice Date: 2/13/2020	PLEASE RESPOND BY: 2/27/2020
Business Address: 		
<p><small>Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Mississippi. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete. You have one step left in order to attain your elective Certificate of Existence from Mississippi Certificate Service. Please confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Mississippi Certificate of Existence. A Mississippi Certificate of Existence is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes. A Certificate of Existence certifies that your Mississippi business is in existence, is authorized to transact business in the state, and complies with all state requirements. Mississippi Certificate Service is not affiliated with any government or state agency and this notice is a solicitation for your business. The Certificate of Existence shows the official evidence of an entity's existence and provides a statement of an entity's status, current legal name and date of formation. The Certificate of Existence bears the official seal of the Mississippi Secretary of State. Mississippi Certificate Service will mail a hard copy of your Certificate of Existence to your business address.</small></p>		
Business Information: Business Type: Limited Liability Company Date of Registration: 2/12/2020 Business Entity Standing Certificate Fee: \$90.50		
Step 1: Please Confirm Business Name & Address Are Correct		
	Identification Number: 	
Step 2: Contact Information – Do NOT Skip This Step! Email & Contact Number Required for Processing.		
Name:	Email:	Phone Number:
Step 3: Payment – Select Payment Method & Double Check Payment Information.		
<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$90.50	[PLEASE ALLOW UP TO TWO WEEKS FOR PROCESSING AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT]	
Please make your check or money order payable to: MS Certificate Service 665 S Pear Orchard Road Suite 106-229 Ridgeland, MS 39157		
Step 4: Authorization Please Sign, Date & Return this Form with Payment Enclosed in Return Envelope Provided		
Signature:	Date:	
MSCS-CE 10.883(1)	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: MS-394043-23	