

## **TSD INFO BULLETIN**

by the **TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP**

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### **A Note for You, Translators**

Did you notice how many translators **keep coming forward, daily**, on translator portals with stories of how they've **fallen victims to all sorts of scams**, be it by sending their CVs and professional credentials to an unknown Gmail address with promises of big jobs and even bigger gains, or to overpayment scam messages with promises of payment by "bank certified check," "cashier check" or "certified bank draft" sent by "sponsors," to whom they happily send all their personal data, like addresses and bank account information?

**But, the use of Gmail doesn't scream scam?** Of course, not! **Although ALL SCAMS COME FROM FREE EMAILS**, many professional translators and translation companies use free email accounts, and you should not suspect them just because of the email address they use. Genuine, reliable translators and reputed translation companies use free email addresses, but when an alleged PM from a corporation contacts you for the first time from a domain that is not the same domain of the company's website, then you should be concerned. This does not automatically qualify the contact as scam, but you should make no commitment until you get hard confirmation that this person really belongs to the company. Also, pay attention to the domains used by scammers to impersonate legitimate companies: A scamming joint named "Language Lingo" may be an impersonation of a legitimate "Lingo Language", and a .net domain may be just an impersonation of a legitimate .com domain with the same name. We also use a Gmail address, and we're not scammers...

**Why would a genuine company**, e.g., "Ariana Pharma" (which scammers change to "Ariana Pharmaceutical", or "Global Ariana Pharmaceutical") or "Kessinger Publishing" contact you out of the blue from a Gmail address like [hr.arianapharma@gmail.com](mailto:hr.arianapharma@gmail.com) or [kessingerpublishingltd@gmail.com](mailto:kessingerpublishingltd@gmail.com) requesting "interviews" by Google or someone with the name "Laura Norton" claiming to represent [rev\(.\)com](mailto:rev(.)com) and emailing you from [translation.rev@protonmail.com](mailto:translation.rev@protonmail.com), all while promising you a juicy online job? **WHY?** Doesn't a misspelled name, a shady form hosted outside the real company's domain, and a free email address scream scam? **What else do you need?**

**Yes, scammers always have some good (and ridiculous) story** to explain the overpayment and to ask you to refund the "excess amount" to a third party. But ask yourself: why will somebody you've never heard of send you a check for thousands of dollars more than you asked for, hoping that you (or anybody else) will return the excess? **Where do you live? In Dreamland?**

**Take note, stupid people: ALL scams are about ONE THING AND ONE THING ONLY: MONEY. YOUR MONEY! If someone promises you payment, there is no payment; if they offer you a job, there is no job; and if they offer you money, there is no money.** And when you think you're going to make a fast buck, it is them, the scammers, who will make that fast buck out of fleecing stupid people like you.

**We know who you are:** a bunch of gullible, stupid, unprofessional people expecting to outsmart everybody else and make a fast buck by believing in absurdly ridiculous fairy tales, but lacking the most basic skills for behaving responsibly and not even doing the most basic due diligence: **Who** is contacting me? **Why** me? **Why** do they "live" at a street address that is a supermarket in Miami, Florida, but their phone is a landline from New York?

**And why is this type of scam so popular among translators, and has it been going on for such a long time?** Because naive and unwary translators keep fueling it by responding to it. And if you fell for any of these scammers, you don't have our sympathy. **You are stupid, and you alone made it happen. Because every scam needs a scammer and YOU!**

**C'MON SUCKERS, IT'S 2023 AND WE HAVE INTERNET!**

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