

# SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MONTANA

Linda McCulloch



Montana State Capitol  
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June 2009

Dear Montana Business:

The Office of the Secretary of State has been notified of a potentially dangerous national scam targeting those individuals seeking to outsource the processing of their company's annual minutes. While I am not aware of any affected Montana businesses, it may be only a matter of time before the allegedly fraudulent scam enters our jurisdiction. In order to better protect your businesses from becoming a victim of fraud, I would like to share with you what I know at this time.

Businesses in a few states, including Indiana and Colorado, have received solicitation letters that are made to appear as though they come from an official government source. Two known sources are "Indiana Corporate Compliance Business Division" and "Colorado Corporate Compliance Business Division." In all cases, the letters attempt to secure a payment in exchange for processing a company's annual minutes. As far as I know, the letters are a hoax and they should be ignored.

In a multi-state investigation, the Office of the Secretary of State of Indiana tracked down the proposed individuals behind these letters. Aaron V. Williams of Las Vegas and Lisa Diane Brown of California appear to be affiliated with several businesses including "Indiana Corporate Compliance." The results of the investigation were shared with Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, who recently filed a complaint against Williams, Brown and their businesses. If the state of Indiana prevails, these individuals could receive fines of over \$1.5 million and be barred from doing business in some states.

Fortunately, Montana has not yet received any of these potentially deceptive solicitations, but if this scam penetrates our borders, I will immediately contact the Attorney General's office to investigate. In the meantime, please exercise caution if you receive any questionable letters soliciting customer services.

If you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact our Business Services Division at (406) 444-3665.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda McCulloch".

Linda McCulloch  
Secretary of State