UPDATED FALL 2026

Job Offer Check

Spot a fake recruiter, interview, or offer before you click, download, or share anything.

THREE THINGS A REAL EMPLOYER NEVER ASKS YOU TO DO

1. Download or install software just to have an interview
2. Pay for training, equipment, or anything else to get the job
3. Deposit a check and send part of the money back

How to use it: check every box that matches what is happening to you. Look at each stage as the job search moves along.

STAGE 1

The job post

- [ ] The pay is far higher than similar jobs, for very easy work
- [ ] The duties are vague, like "online assistant" or "assessor"
- [ ] You cannot find the job on the company's own careers page

STAGE 2

The recruiter

- [ ] They reached out first by text, WhatsApp, or Telegram
- [ ] They asked you to reply "YES" or "INTERESTED"
- [ ] They moved the chat off the job site to another app

STAGE 3

The interview

- [ ] A link asks you to download a meeting app, "skills test," or file
- [ ] The interview happens only by chat, never by phone or live video
- [ ] The interviewer never showed up after you installed something

STAGE 4

The offer

- [ ] You got hired with no real interview
- [ ] They want your Social Security or bank details before a written offer you can verify
- [ ] They send a check for equipment, or ask you to pay to unlock earnings

Checked even one box? *Stop before you reply, click, install, or pay. Turn over and check the job yourself.*

CHECK THE JOB YOURSELF

1. Type the company's website into your browser yourself. Do not use links from the message.
2. Find the job on the company's own careers page.
3. Call the main phone number listed on that website and ask if the recruiter works there.
4. Search the company name plus "scam" or "fake recruiter."

Good to know: a video interview on a computer does not need a special download. Common meeting tools can run right in your web browser.

IF YOU ALREADY INSTALLED SOMETHING

1. Turn off WiFi or unplug the internet cable right away.
2. On a different device, change your email and banking passwords, and turn on two-step verification.
3. Have the computer checked, or reset it, before you use it again for anything personal.
4. Watch your bank and card accounts closely for the next few weeks.

IF YOU SHARED PERSONAL DETAILS OR MONEY

1. Sent money? Call your bank or card company right away, using the number on your card.
2. Shared your Social Security number? Go to **IdentityTheft.gov** for a free, step-by-step recovery plan, including how to freeze your credit.

REPORT IT

The job site	Use the site's report button on the post. On Indeed: open the job, scroll to the bottom, tap Report job, and choose Fake job.
The FTC	ReportFraud.ftc.gov
The FBI	ic3.gov, if you lost money or had software installed

GET THE NEXT ALERT FIRST

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