

Data Protection Tip of The Month for May 2009

Job Hunting and Data Protection

Job seekers are admonished to take extra care when supplying their personal details for job applications. Regrettably, there have been persons who have applied in response to job offers which turned out to be fake.

It does not surprise me that in the current economic climate criminals are trying to take advantage of job applicants. They seem to be seeking personal details for identity fraud purposes. Job seekers are being asked to supply details that are totally unnecessary and likely to be used to perpetrate fraud either against that person or in their name. Job applicants must therefore be extra careful when supplying personal details and to verify the identity of any potential employer that seems to be seeking a lot of personal data.

One of the scams works by advertising a job position and, following the receipt of applications, asking individuals to supply more personal details to facilitate further vetting. For instance, bank account details, NIB details, mother's maiden name, passport details etc. are all entirely unnecessary at job application stage and should not be supplied unless an applicant is absolutely certain that they are dealing with a genuine employer. These details should only be supplied at the pre-engagement stage.

Any person who is worried that they may have supplied their personal details in these circumstances should seek to ensure they are dealing with a genuine employer and/or report any suspicions to the police under advice to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

Remember to "Take extra care with your personal data."

Feel free to email us at dataprotection@bahamas.gov.bs