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## **Scam Alert: Bogus Mystery Shopper Job Offers**

A member bank of the Indiana Bankers Association has reported a recent consumer scam involving fraudulent cashier's checks and a bogus mystery shopper business. The phony business mails fraudulent cashier's check in the amount of \$4,998 to consumers, with a letter inviting recipients to join the company as a mystery shopper.

Each victim is instructed to deposit the fraudulent check in his or her banking account and make a series of purchases and business transactions, allegedly as mystery shoppers. These business transactions include money transfers and money grams. In actuality, the victim loses funds through the money transfers and money grams.

Consumers are urged to be alert and aware when receiving unsolicited job offers. Consumers are also advised that they should not verify the legitimacy of a cashier's check by calling a phone number listed on the check itself; a telephone number listed on a check may be part of a scam operation. Instead, consumers may look up actual bank telephone numbers through phone directories or official bank websites.

When in doubt, consumers are encouraged to contact their trusted local bankers for guidance.

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