

The Consumer Fraud Unit of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office is issuing a consumer advisory to Bay Area residents about certain private companies offering massage therapy training and accreditation.

Through recent solicitations in newspapers, certain private companies engage students interested in a career in massage therapy. In order to enroll in the course, these companies require the applicant to pay a fee and disclose personal information, such as social security number, driver's license and immigration information. The companies take the applicant's money but do not provide services, nor do they issue the necessary certificates and transcripts required for accreditation. These companies are scams.

"These solicitations target members of the local community who are attempting to improve their lives and brighten their futures by obtaining education for better employment," said Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley in a written statement.

O'Malley urged consumers to carefully investigate before they hand over their money or personal private information. To see if a business is properly licensed, DA O'Malley encourages consumers to call the Alameda County Business Licensing office at 238-3704. If you feel you've been a victim of any business as described above, please call the DA's Consumer Protection line at 877-288-2882.

District Attorney Warns Against Scam

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