

Notice to the public and the profession regarding an investment scheme

It has come to the Law Society's attention that a number of individuals residing primarily in the United States have received letters from someone purporting to be a lawyer licensed to practice law in Toronto or the surrounding area. The letters offer to add the recipients as beneficiaries to a substantial life insurance policy in exchange for a share of the benefits.

In some cases, the name of a licensed lawyer has been used by the imposter but the contact email or telephone number belong to the imposter. In other cases, the name is not that of a licensed lawyer, but some of the contact information, for example, the website or mailing address, matches that of a licensed lawyer.

The Law Society maintains a Licensee Directory on our website, where the public can confirm the name and contact details of our licensees:

<https://lso.ca/public-resources/finding-a-lawyer-or-paralegal/lawyer-and-paralegal-directory>

If you receive a letter that appears to be fraudulent, you may want to contact your local authorities. Beware if you receive a letter that includes language similar to the following:

The transaction pertains to an unclaimed "Payable-on-Death" ("POD") savings monetary deposit in the sum of Nine Million Eight Hundred and twenty Thousand United States Dollars (\$9,820,000) with a Reputable Bank. The policy holder was one of our clients who worked with Energy Company in Canada. He died in an accident in Toronto Canada, Nine years ago. Since His death no one has come forward for the claim and all our efforts to locate His relatives have proved unsuccessful.

The insurance company code stipulates that "insured permanent policies" not claimed must be turned over to the abandoned property division of the state after 10 years.

Therefore, I ask for your consent to be in partnership with me for the claim of this policy benefit, in view of the fact that you share the same last name and nationality with the deceased. If you permit me to add your name to the policy, all proceeds will be processed on your behalf. I wish to point out that I want 10% of this money to be shared among charity organizations while the remaining 90% will be shared between us.

This is 100% risk free; I do have all necessary documentation to expedite to the process in a highly professional and confidential manner. I will provide all the relevant documents to substantiate your claim as the beneficiary. This claim requires a high level of confidentiality and it may take up to thirty (30) business days, from the date of receipt of your consent. Kindly provide a reachable contact number, for faster communication.