

Summarized Group Report for Absolute Marketing

Complaints Filed: **12** Total Reported Damages: **\$1,143**

Total User Comments: 0

This Group Justice Page started on January 2nd, 2012, with initial reports beginning on August 24th, 2011

Sample Complaints Filed Against Absolute Marketing

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$36.00 on 12/16/2011

Same bs situation- 2 guys come up to me while I'm in my yard, one introducing himself as so & so's kid from the neighborhood going to college earning \$ for London trip and selling magazine for injured vets in the hospital.

After reading the postings on this site, I immediately called the number on the receipt he gave me and of course got a voice mail message; I called the bank and cancelled the check but had to pay a \$36.00 fee.

Thank all of you for posting your messages and everyone BEWARE.

Submitted by lg257 on 12/17/2011

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$118.00 on 12/30/2011

Almost the same as the other posts below. Two college guys, claiming to be neighbors, magazine sales scam-supposedly a fundraiser involving the purchase of magazine subscriptions going to troops (this time-furnishing VA hospitals with reading material), funding the boys' trip to the UK.

If you want more info, as I did after being conned, the full story is below.

I answered the door to two very amiable young men (claimed to be 21 and 22) who told me they were "neighbors' kids" out fundraising...at about 7:00 in the evening. Should have thrown up a major

red flag as it was now dark outside, but as they pointed to the street over from our house as being where they were from I figured we were just their one last try for the day, and as I mentioned, they seemed harmless. As they were close to my own age and I work really hard to fundraise every year for a large (national, legitimate) charity I hold near and dear to my heart and know how hard it is, I sympathized. And wasn't I the fool!

Their story was that they were UF students in the top of their major, and were being rewarded for their work in the Honors program by being given the opportunity to participate in a special project in conjunction with Oxford in London in the next few weeks. They said they'd get to work with a famous stage and film actor who had produced a tv show for the BBC...etc, etc...they just had to finance the trip or they wouldn't get to go and participate in the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Note-if this were Study Abroad through a major 4-year institution, all fees would have to have been turned in much earlier than 2 weeks before they were due to leave. I didn't think of that at the time as they first pitched it as a unique project, but I certainly should have when they began to make it sound like Study Abroad, quipping that they hoped the different grading system over there would not bring down their high GPAs over here upon their return. But their personalities and seemingly genuine natures really put my guard down. The most talkative guy even said his (Army) dad had found the magazine program and put him up to it in order to teach him about responsibility and help him get used to public speaking! Told him he had to finance the trip on his own. And while we're on the subject of tricks they used--one of them mentioned by name one of our local junior high schools as being a school he went to when talking about when he first became interested in what they were studying, so they weren't as entirely non-specific with the "I'm from the neighborhood" claims as mentioned in a couple of the previous posts on this scam.

The two were very conversational, joked a lot, said they were "ADD" and really showed it as they jumped from topic to topic completely unrelated to the fundraiser. They honestly seemed to have never fundraised before in their lives, which perfectly suited their story. Just seemed like two normal college kids. I wanted to help them out but as soon as they said it would be by magazine subscription (which they did not reveal at the onset of their visit...in fact, I thought they were introducing themselves as new neighbors who'd just finished moving in for the first minute or two that they were at the door), I said I wasn't interested in that part-which they've prepared for. You can donate a subscription to the VA hospital so you don't have to worry for the next year about monthly reminders that you paid an outrageous amount for crap you don't actually want! I hate to go further because every detail after the fact is so glaringly obvious!

But...they got me. Talked me into getting one from each of them since the two were fundraising separately rather than splitting the sales. Sadly they were trying HARD for a ridiculous "6 or 7 subscriptions"...We don't receive 6 or 7 magazine subscriptions at our house between 4 family members! I hope they didn't con anyone out of several hundred dollars...though they do love referencing specific neighbors around you and their assorted responses throughout their visit. But yes, the damage: two checks, \$59 apiece. There's not one item on that list for less than that amount, but there are others that run much more expensive.

They have small forms for you to fill out, and if you flip them over there is light red text on the back explaining that you have 3 days to change your mind and cancel the subscription (after I started researching, I read that this legal sounding statement rather than being the company's return policy would probably be a reference to the FTC's Cooling-Off Rule for a commitment to a sale for something over \$25) but they ask you to rate their presentation "on the back" of the form coincidentally over that text they haven't explained and (at least in my case) don't leave anything that has the company's info so that you *could* follow up later and cancel. At that point the boys had completely overstayed their welcome just chatting along and I was in such a hurry to finally get them off my porch that I carelessly didn't ask them for that info. That of course was 100% my fault.

The second I went back into the house and I recounted the experience to family I realized just how

stupid it all sounded and Googled "Absolute Marketing"- the company checks are made out to, and the only company by that name is one that provides corporate marketing solutions to businesses we're talking websites and commercials and things-services which are purchased, not fundraising initiatives. And of course I found the other reports that recounted the EXACT thing I fell for-down to the trip to the UK!

With all evidence to the contrary here...I'm no idiot. But after trusting these guys, I sure feel like one.

I called my bank's fraud department immediately after finding this thread, got the two checks cancelled (luckily they waived the fee for this particular situation since it did involve a scam and I'd never cancelled a check before in my life..but it depends on who you speak to whether or not you'll have the \$30/check fee applied or waived), and called the Clay County (FL) Sheriff's Office this morning to report it. They had already received a call last night from the same area.

Submitted by AI on 12/31/2011

Absolute Marketing - Other for \$118.00 on 08/22/2011

college student selling magazines for veterans hospitals. cost for two was 118.00 told me it was one eighteen, didn't realize it was one hundred eighteen

Submitted by rabbit on 08/24/2011

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$177.00 on 12/08/2011

Young man posing as college student selling magazines for support military as proceeds go to finance a trip to the UK for a college semester. He mentioned living in the neighborhood but could not remember the house number and did not have any form of ID on him. He was nervous, not articulate and was not an educated person. Beware they want to come in your house and "fish" for personal information along with getting your check with routing and account numbers. If they lie about living in the neighborhood what else are they lying about. We contacted local law enforcement

Submitted by Anonymous on 12/08/2011

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$236.00 on 01/05/2012

Exact story as the others, young guy saying they would sponsor his trip to the UK for Broadcasting, and that we were purchasing Magazines for our troops overseas, when I told him that these were way to expensive he said I could post date a check, which very stupidly I did, and now I am out that money plus more..

Submitted by VegGal on 01/05/2012

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$59.00 on 05/20/2011

Guy in his 20's came to the door selling magazine subscriptions to be sent to the overseas military.

Money would go to support his American Legion baseball team. He said the magazines companies were donating the subscriptions and that is why the teams were getting all the money. He said he lived in the neighborhood with his grandmother, named the street, named other neighbors who had bought subscriptions AND EVEN SHOWED ME THEIR CHECKS THAT THEY HAD WRITTEN! So I know I'm not the only one in the neighborhood who got scammed. And I knew it was a scam as I was writing the check. But they make you feel so guilty for not wanting to support the military if you say no. Lesson learned!

Submitted by lesson-learned on 11/17/2011

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$59.00 on 12/31/2011

Was approached by young white male claiming to be a college student (Leon County) to buy magazines for veterans. The same as the other victims have reported. Unfortunately did not check out the scam alerts before giving him the check. Have just requested a stop payment on my check.

Submitted by Fool12 on 12/31/2011

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$59.00 on 12/07/2011

Exactly what happened to the others. A large portion of this community was scanned. We live in Monterey Lakes. They told us about the magazines and then said they were having a barbaque to thank us. They also said they lived at this community and one "student" even said his mother had breast cancer but after a mamagraphy she was doing much better No one thought to check on his house or call absolute marketing. I don't know how much they scammed on this block

Submitted by Anonymous on 01/01/2012

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$59.00 on 12/15/2011

Young African American girl comes to the door at around 4pm claiming she is raising money for college. She says her grandmother lived in Satellite Beach. Appeared as though she was checking out our stuff..TV, computer. We gave her money for one subscription. She said to expect a call from the company in a couple days. Smart. They hope you'll forget about it all together. They've got your router number and acct. number at this point. Only thing left is to steal your identity. The bank and Police can't do anything since the funds were an agreement. Why can't this fake company be stopped? There is an email address and phone number on the fake receipt. I think they are hoping to get your email address from this. Close your bank account, shred your personal info before trashing it and keep your home extra secure. These people are out to do serious damage. They'll pay in the end.

Submitted by AHW on 01/03/2012

Absolute Marketing - False Advertising for \$89.00 on 12/22/2011

Scambook.com - Group Report Generated from: <http://www.scambook.com/group/view/730/Absolute-Marketing>

2 college kids selling magazines for vets....blah blah blah.. told me they would leave their info about the company and never did...took my check and ran off said they were the neighbors kids..so i beleived them.. it was around 7pm.

over drew my bank account before i had tried to look them up and put a stop payment on the check..they told me the company would call and verify if i ordered the magazines before the check went through(but they didnt)..not a legit company.

scam

called my bank to try to reverse the charges...

Submitted by dici on 01/03/2012