



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

# CONSUMER ALERT

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## **Consumer Alert: Maryland Businesses Receiving Fake “2023 Certificate of Good Standing Request Form” Letter; Same Scam Letter Circulated in 2019 and 2020**

The Office of the Attorney General has received information that businesses in Maryland have been receiving a letter entitled “2023 Certificate of Good Standing Request Form” that requests a fee in exchange for a letter of good standing with an “official seal of the Secretary of State.” This letter is a SCAM. This same scam letter was circulated in 2019 and 2020.

The scam letter asks the recipient to send a check or money order to an entity named “MD Certificate Service” in Baltimore, MD in exchange for an “elective Maryland Certificate of Good Standing.” The letter goes to great lengths to look official with a “document number” and a barcode, and includes a customer service phone number of 1-855-222-3322.

Some business entities in Maryland are required to have a certificate of good standing, but not from the Secretary of State. An **official** certificate of good standing is available from the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (<https://dat.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) for a nominal fee.

If you receive this scam letter, do NOT send them any money. You can report the letter to the Maryland Secretary of State, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/> or the United States Postal Inspection Service at [www.uspis.gov](http://www.uspis.gov) or 1-877-876-2455.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/032223CA.pdf>