

## **Warning: Potential Scam Targeting Mystery Shoppers and Mystery Shopping Providers**

Evaluation Systems for Personnel Inc (ESP)/ESPSHOP has recently received calls from potential shoppers that they are being approached by bogus companies using our name and logos offering them mystery shopping opportunities that require them to cash a check and complete a wire money transfer.

It is obvious that these individuals are sending bad checks (marked "cashier's check."). They hope that the shopper will deposit the check into their bank account and transfer a portion of the check amount back to them as part of a mystery shop. We can assure you that the check will not clear and if you've already transferred funds, you will be responsible for the amount of the bounced check.

ESP **will never**:

- Hire a shopper requiring them to cash or deposit a check in advance (as part of a mystery shopping assignment).
- Ask you to transfer funds to an account as part of a mystery shopping assignment.
- Send you a letter via the mail telling you that you have been selected to participate in a paid consumer research program.

Evaluation Systems Inc/ ESPSHOP has been in contact with local, state, and federal law enforcement to report any incidents that we've been made aware of and ask that if you are contacted by anyone you feel may be illegally representing themselves as a representative of our company, that you contact **The Federal Trade Commission Complaint Submission link at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>**. We would also encourage you to contact your local authorities, the FBI, and the Federal Trade Commission to report any potential fraud. **If you have additional questions for ESP please call 800-256-7953.**

ESP has been an established mystery-shopping provider since 1985 and are proud of our reputation in the business world. As an ESP shopper you will only be contacted regarding upcoming assignments by phone or by email from an employee using an @espshop.com email address. Additionally, you will always be able to reach someone at our offices during regular business hours if you need to verify that an opportunity you may be unsure of is legitimate.

-The ESP Team

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