

# Skeptical of Business Services...

Written by Brian Dunning

Thursday, 01 January 2009 00:00

**Annual Minutes Disclosure Statement**  
ANNUAL MINUTES  
SHAREHOLDERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICE OF THE COMPLIANCE RECORDER (For Internal Office Use Only)

**FEE: \$175.00** (Checkboxes and Processing DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER REMIT DATE: 3/17/09)  
**IMPORTANT - READ NOTIFICATION BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM**

REMIT BY: January 12, 2009  
CONTROL NUMBER: 101825

NOTICE DATE: 12/30/08

9510. (A) Each corporation shall keep: (1) Adequate and correct books and records of account; (2) Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings, trial and committees of the board; (3) a record of the members giving their names and addresses and the class of membership held by each; (4) Agenda shall be kept in written form.

9511. Except as otherwise provided in the articles or bylaws, a member may inspect and copy the record of all the members' names, addresses and voting rights, at reasonable times, upon first business day prior written demand upon the corporation for a purpose reasonably related to the member's interest as a member.  
A copy of the Minutes will be returned to your corporate office within a timely manner.

**TYPE OR PRINT IN BLACK INK ONLY**

1. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FOR ALL CORPORATIONS REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE COMPLIANCE RECORDER.  
1. STREET ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL OFFICE OR ADDRESS IN CALIFORNIA CITY AND STATE ZIP CODE

2. PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY

3. IF APPLICABLE DATE & TIME WHEN MEETING OCCURRED (The due fee was received and is used, if not provided)

4. NAMES OF ALL DIRECTORS/MEMBERS NAMES OF ALL SHAREHOLDERS  
(Including those who are also Officers. A Corporation must have at least one director. Attach additional pages, if necessary.)  
NAME NAME  
NAME NAME  
NAME NAME

5. IF APPLICABLE, INCLUDE ALL NEW BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS THAT HAVE ACCRUED WITHIN THE CALENDAR YEAR, i.e. ACQUISITIONS, NEW APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS. (NEWBORNS MUST BE LEGIBLE FOR PROPER PROCESSING.)  
(Attach additional pages, if necessary.)

6. THIS FORM IS A NOTIFICATION FOR THE OFFICE OF CORPORATIONS OR BUREAU OF REALTY, AND NOT A BILL, INVOICE, OR STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT. THE USER MUST SIGN AND RETURN TO MAKE ANY PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF ANY OFFER REQUIREMENTS. A P-CORP THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IS NOT REQUIRED TO PAY ANY FEES TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMPLIANCE RECORDER. THE CORPORATION OFFERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, INCLUDING ANY APPOINTMENTS AND THEIR ANY CHANGES.

TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF OFFICER OR AGENT SIGNATURE TITLE DATE  
SEE REVERSE SIDE ON INSTRUCTION FOR COMPLETING FORM (FOR NUMBER 12 1999 CCR-300001-2/09)

It's year end again, and about now I always get an extra annual load of junk mail. This particular batch is from companies who attempt to deceive small business owners into paying for unnecessary services that appear to be a legal requirement.

I received a typical solicitation today. Corporations are required to keep certain records, including the recorded minutes of shareholder meetings. In my case, once a quarter I type a sentence or two detailing any important decisions I made regarding my podcast, and I stick it in a file. This is a legal requirement, and it takes me ten minutes to comply.

Today's solicitation was from a company offering to store it for me, for \$175, if I mail it to them. Nothing wrong with that. Probably not worth it, but certainly there's nothing wrong with offering such a service.

The problem is with the way they offered it. They sent me a form (click on image for larger view), at a glance similar in general appearance to the Secretary of State's official corporation forms. It even has a simulated serial number "stamped" (actually printed) on it. It has a "remit by" date of two weeks from the day I received it. It has an official looking seal printed in the top left. It is to be remitted to the "Corporate Compliance Recorder", which is simply the name of their company, but which they apparently hope I will mistake for the name of a government agency. In short, this company Corporate Compliance Recorder is hoping that I will mistake their solicitation for a legal obligation to some government agency that I believe I am required to fulfill. They hope I will send them a check for \$175, and they are not going to any great pains to inform me that I have no legal obligation to do so.

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I've received at least one other identical request in the past week from a different company, and once a month or so I get a similar form from a company, also disguising themselves as a government agency, offering to file my Statement of Information form for me for \$150.

(California corporations are required to file a Statement of Information, which is a prefilled form that I sign and stick in the reply envelope, with an annual fee of \$25.) This particular company simply keeps the \$125 profit and forwards my form to the Secretary of State.

I keep wondering if I should send this along to the district attorney. Some might interpret these solicitations as attempts to defraud small businesspeople.

The lesson to be learned is to be skeptical, even of your mail. Just because someone's asking for your money doesn't mean they're entitled to any of it.