

## **The Great Pet Business Scam (also known as the “Michael Pil” scam)**

### **The Scam goes like this:**

Email received from a person (often by the name of Mark Pill, or Mark Pil, or Mark Pils, or Hope, or Faith) who has a yahoo email address.

He claims to be hearing impaired and that is why he is emailing not phoning.

He says that he needs to arrange for a pet transport company to drop his dogs off at the salon/pet business, however the dogs are not with him they are with his uncle and the pet transport company will not accept credit card payments over the phone.

He asks the business to debit his card (over the phone) for the amount of the groom and for the expense of the pet transport company before he dogs came in for their groom. And could I forward that extra amount to the pet transport company.

### **Why it’s difficult to catch them:**

They use a stolen credit card and get you to transfer money to another company which is actually them usually through Western Union. Being a stolen credit card the real owner sees the charge and reverses it leaving the pet business out of pocket.

Many insurance agencies and regulators are now warning about this scam. It is unclear whether these agencies are tracking money flows, but you are VERY unlikely to see your money again.

Internet searching on the name brings up many references to this scam including wedding photography, mechanics and house inspections.

The first email was quite convincing but then it became apparent it was a scam when he would not give name and contact details of the pet transport company

The Scam appears to originate from Nigeria.

*This advice is of a general nature and is not a substitute for professional assistance.*

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