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## State of Utah Department of Commerce

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Director, Division of Consumer Protection

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### MEDIA ALERT

#### **Consumer Protection says beware of fake money orders in new online scam**

*"Utah woman was sent \$1900 for \$45 dishwasher in fake U.S Postal Service money orders"*  
(For immediate release...)

**SALT LAKE CITY, Utah** - Francine A. Giani, Executive Director of the Department of Commerce, announced today that the Utah Division of Consumer Protection is warning Utah consumers about a new version of an old scam involving fake U.S. Postal Service (USPS) money orders as bait. Investigators at the Division of Consumer Protection report that a Salt Lake woman was sent \$1900 worth of fake USPS money orders in return for a \$45 dishwasher she was selling through an online classified ad. The "buyer" instructed her to complete the following; fill out the two blank money orders with information which turned out to be fraudulent, deposit the money in her bank account keeping \$100 as a bonus, and then wire the remaining money back to the "buyer" through Money Gram. Luckily the consumer in this case did not follow the "buyer's" instructions and instead, reported the scam to the Utah Division of Consumer Protection.

"Phony money orders are yet another ploy where scam artists try to steal your hard earned money through a fake front," said Francine A. Giani, "Consumers need to be especially vigilant in this tough economy as desperate scam artists offer bigger checks, higher sweepstakes winnings and other fake prizes to tempt consumers."

For more information on how to protect yourself from consumer scams and fraud, log on to [www.consumerprotection.utah.gov](http://www.consumerprotection.utah.gov). If you have a question about a possible scam or consumer complaint, contact the Division of Consumer Protection at (801) 530-6601.

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For more information contact:

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