

Fraud Prevention Tips

By Kel Hansen, RCIC

What are some of the most common types of fraud or misrepresentation that you've encountered in your practice?

“Currently, we have seen an increase in P/R application under the Agri-Pilot made by individuals on their own behalf.”

In your experience, how do clients typically get misled by Unauthorized Immigration Practitioners?

“Clients are often misled by Unauthorized Immigration Practitioners because they are drawn to the promise of lower fees. For example, clients might say, their friend chose to handle their immigration process with the help of someone they knew, paying only \$1000, which they believed saved them a significant amount compared to the fees of a professional regulated consultant.”

What are some warning signs that someone might be working with an unlicensed or fraudulent immigration consultant?

“Many unauthorized practitioners operate in the shadows and clients are often hesitant to reveal who assisted them. They may not give out receipts or a service agreement. They may insist on not using a use of rep form for the applications.”

What actions do you take if you know a client has been involved with an unauthorized practitioner?

“I like to point out and warn applicants that their status in Canada is in jeopardy if they do not follow the rules and regulations set in the Immigration act, resulting in the possibility of being removed from Canada.”

What advice would you give to someone who is unsure if the consultant they are working with is authorized or legitimate?

“We ask and tell them to check the Immigration website showing legal representatives.”

What common mistakes do people make when they first seek immigration advice, and how can they avoid them?

“Most people ask what the requirements are and how long the process of the applications take and cost. When they receive that information, they normally leave the office and think of how to deal with application and the requirements. We may hear from them again if they would like to proceed with the application, but if not, they will be

looking for something less expensive, and that will be the time they seek out unlicensed consultants.

So, at the time of the interview it is important to tell your clients about misrepresentation themselves if they think of going with an unauthorized Practitioner!”