

# FOUR SIGNS A STUDENT LOAN DEBT RELIEF COMPANY IS A FRAUD



1

## **Pressure to pay fees or to sign a contract on the spot.**

Avoid companies that require payment before they do anything for you, especially if they ask for your credit card number or bank account information. Taking payment before providing help is often illegal and FREE assistance should be available by contacting your loan servicer.

2

## **Promises of immediate loan forgiveness or debt cancellation.**

Debt relief companies cannot negotiate with your creditors under federal student loan programs. Payment levels under income driven payment plans are set by federal law and, for most borrowers, loan forgiveness – if it is available at all – is only available through programs that require years of qualifying payments.

3

## **Demands that you sign a “third party authorization” form.**

Do not sign a “third party authorization” form or a “power of attorney” because if you do, you are giving the company legal permission to talk directly to your student loan servicer and make decisions on your behalf.

4

## **Requests for your Federal Student Aid PIN.**

Your PIN — the unique ID issued by the U.S. Department of Education to allow access to information about your federal student loans — is the equivalent of your signature. Do not give your PIN number to anyone!



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

**CONSUMER PROTECTION**

FIGHTING FRAUD ■ PROTECTING OREGONIANS

**Attorney General Ellen F. Rosenblum**

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**How to get help:**

Submit a consumer complaint online at [oregonconsumer.gov](http://oregonconsumer.gov) or call the Oregon Department of Justice at (877) 877-9392 if you have been the victim of a student loan debt relief scam.