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## Tips to Detect Online Fraudulent Clients

By Pascale Daigneault

Means of communications are changing in the world. The use and frequency of “snail mail” continues to decrease, as we all become more reliant on new technology, in particular the internet to communicate with others, including with potential clients.

I recently had such a contact by someone inquiring to retain my services. Unlike the usual blanket spam attempts to collect money, this request actually related to my area of practice, personal injury law. The request for legal services was elaborate, complete with medical reports. I spent some time reading all the documents included. The case sounded good, not perfect but quite good.

On a whim, I looked up the physician on the internet who had provided the report, as I was interested in finding more about that person. However, I could not find an individual with the exact same initials, although I got quite close. I then “Googled” the potential client and this is where things started to become interesting. The first search result for that name was for our own LAW PRO, "Avoid a Claim Blog". Apparently the name of that particular individual was already known to be a fraudster.

While we are all aware of the red flags of online frauds (which include any reference to Nigeria), there are other cues:

- Poor spelling and grammar
- Email is addressed to undisclosed recipients (meaning you are one of many receiving it)
- Email has a generic address and or uses American language “Dear Attorney”
- Potential client is unavailable to meet and/or out of the country
- Potential client can only communicate by email
- Potential client has a free email address (aol, yahoo etc)

All these tips and additional ones are available at [avoidaclaim.com/2011/the-red-flags-of-an-email-scam/](http://avoidaclaim.com/2011/the-red-flags-of-an-email-scam/)

After the fact, it dawned on me that I could have saved considerable time by simply running the name of this online potential client through Law Pro's site, as they have a search feature for that purpose. Hoping this information is of assistance to others, here is the link to where LawPro keeps track of confirmed fraudsters. <http://avoidaclaim.com/confirmed-frauds/>



*Pascale Daigneault is the managing partner of Fleck Law, a personal injury litigation boutique located in Point Edward (Sarnia), and is the 1st Vice President of the Ontario Bar Association.*