



**Office of the Attorney General  
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Commissioner Leslie Newman**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 6, 2008**

**#08-14**

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### **Tennessee Attorney General Sues To Stop Alleged Unauthorized Practice of Law By Individual and Company in Middle Tennessee Immigrant Community**

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper, acting on behalf of the Division of Consumer Affairs, filed a civil law enforcement action against a Middle Tennessee man for allegedly providing legal services without a license to members of the Hispanic immigrant community.

The Attorney General has filed suit against Elmer Virula, TPS Tax Professional Services, Inc., and Office Professional Services, Inc. in Davidson County Circuit Court. To obtain a copy of the State's filings, go to [www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us](http://www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us) and then click on Office Information and Cases of Interest.

The defendants are charged with the unauthorized practice of law for allegedly providing services from their offices located on Billingsgate Road in Antioch, South Mountain Street in Smithville, and Nolensville Pike and Thompson Lane in Nashville. The State's lawsuit alleges the defendants falsely told consumers that Elmer Virula is an attorney and certified public accountant in the State of Tennessee. The complaint also alleges the defendants misled consumers, claiming they could provide legal services such as immigration document preparation, marriage licenses and other government certificates, which were falsified.

The State has also filed a motion for temporary injunction seeking to stop the unlawful conduct. The

Court has set the hearing on the State's motion seeking an injunction for 9 a.m. March 11 before Judge Hamilton Gayden in Davidson County Circuit Court, Division I.

If you paid Elmer Virula, TPS Tax Professional Services, Inc., or Office Professional Services, Inc. for services, please contact the Tennessee Attorney General's Office at (615) 741-1671 or toll free within Tennessee at 1-877-275-7396. The State is still trying to determine how many consumers may have paid Virula and the related businesses for services he allegedly did not provide.

If you know of an individual or company that may be practicing law without a license, please file a complaint with the Attorney General by downloading a complaint form from <http://www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us/cpro/upl.htm> and mailing it back to:

Tennessee Attorney General's Office  
Consumer Advocate and Protection Division  
Attn: UPL Complaint  
P.O. Box 20207  
Nashville, TN 37202-0207

To find out if an attorney is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, and to find out if the attorney is in good standing, call the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility at (615) 361-7500 or go to the website at <http://www.tbpr.org/>

To find out if an accountant is licensed as a certified public accountant in Tennessee and in good standing, call the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy at (615) 741-2550 or toll free in Tennessee at 1-888-453-6150 or go to the website at <http://tennessee.gov/commerce/boards/tnsba/>

Consumers with complaints about individuals or businesses engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices should contact the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs at 1-800-342-8385 (toll-free inside Tennessee) or (615) 741-4737.