

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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## **Attorney General Sues UTS Corporation for *Notario* Fraud**

*Company Accused of Providing Unlawful Immigration and Legal Services Targeting Spanish-Speaking Immigrant Communities*

**WASHINGTON, D. C.** – Attorney General Karl A. Racine announced today that he has filed a lawsuit against a company for offering unlawful immigrant-consultant services to Spanish-speaking communities in the District. The complaint was filed against Unlimited Technologies and Services Corporation, doing business as UTS, and its owner, Mardoqueo M. Sanchez.

**“Immigration fraud can sometimes go unreported because victims are afraid to come forward due to their undocumented status,”** said Attorney General Racine. **“The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is here to protect all District residents and bring to justice those who would defraud consumers, including the immigrant community.”**

Under federal law, persons cannot provide legal assistance with immigration matters (including assisting consumers with obtaining, preparing or filing immigration forms) unless they are licensed attorneys or accredited individuals under federal law. The Attorney General's lawsuit accuses UTS and Sanchez of falsely advertising that they were *notarios*, a term for those authorized to practice law in many Latin American countries. Despite UTS having no licensed attorneys on staff, the company's *notario* advertisement falsely indicated to District residents that UTS could legally assist in immigration matters, including obtaining and preparing immigration forms for a fee. This practice is commonly referred to as “*notario* fraud.”

The complaint also alleges that, in addition to claiming to be a *notario*, Sanchez, when meeting with consumers, further misled District residents by calling himself an “*abogado*” or “*licenciado*.” UTS's marketing also included terms like *TPS*, *permisos de viaje*, and *abogados*, which are Spanish terms or abbreviations for legal services. Sanchez's business cards also falsely advertised the certification of “*Lic.*,” an abbreviation for the word *licenciado*, which also signals in the Spanish language that Sanchez was a lawyer.

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OAG's [complaint](#) further alleges that UTS and Sanchez harmed consumers when he gave them incorrect legal advice and failed to properly perform the offered immigration services. The District seeks injunctive relief, as well as the payment of restitution, penalties and costs. In order to stop UTS and Sanchez from further harming consumers while this matter is pending, the District also filed a Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. That motion is still pending before the court.

Consumers who have been victimized by immigration services fraud may contact the OAG Office of Consumer Protection at (202) 442-9828. Los consumidores que han sido víctimas de fraude de servicios de inmigración puede ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de Protección al Consumidor llamando al (202) 442-9828 .

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