Unauthorized Practice of Law Complaint Form

Please carefully review this complaint form once you have included all information. Please note the Statute governing the unauthorized practice of law is set forth on the bottom of this Form.

Your name:_____________________________________________________

Your address:___________________________________________________

Your telephone number:__________________________________________

Person or Business you believe has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law:
______________________________________________________________

Person or Business’s address:_____________________________________

Person or Business’s telephone number:______________________________

Check any and all that apply:

Did the non-lawyer:
__ Hold himself out as an attorney or use the designation “lawyer,” “attorney at law,” “counselor at law,” “law office,” “J.D.” “Esq.” or other equivalent words in such a way that you believed the person or business was authorized to practice law in Mississippi (attach a copy of any letterhead, advertisement, business card, correspondence, pleading or other material)
__ Give legal advice
__ Prepare legal documents
__ Represent you or a third party in a legal matter before a court, administrative agency, arbitration panel, or other tribunal
__ Negotiate legal rights or responsibilities for you, a third person or a business
Did you pay money to this person or business for some service?  ____ Yes  ____No
If so, how much money did you pay? $_________
How did you pay the money?  ____ Cash  ____Check  ____Credit Card  ____Other

What did the person or business do?  Describe your complaint in specific detail.
Please provide actual dates and full addresses for all places that are important to your complaint.  Tell us what kind of contact you had with the person or business, whether it was a phone call, personal meeting, emails, letters or some other contact.  Attach copies of any papers, letters, receipts, checks, contracts, advertisements or any other documents that apply to your complaint.  You may also use a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this form if there is not enough space here to describe your complaint.

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Signature: ___________________________________________  Date: ___________
§ 73-3-55. Unlawful to practice law without license; certain abstract companies may certify titles

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of law in this state who has not been licensed according to law. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section 97-23-43. Any person who shall for fee or reward or promise, directly or indirectly, write or dictate any paper or instrument of writing, to be filed in any cause or proceeding pending, or to be instituted in any court in this state, or give any counsel or advice therein, or who shall write or dictate any bill of sale, deed of conveyance, deed of trust, mortgage, contract, or last will and testament, or shall make or certify to any abstract of title to real estate other than his own or in which he may own an interest, shall be held to be engaged in the practice of law. This section shall not, however, prevent title or abstract of title guaranty companies incorporated under the laws of this state from making abstract or certifying titles to real estate where it acts through some person as agent, authorized under the laws of the State of Mississippi to practice law; nor shall this section prevent any abstract company chartered under the laws of the State of Mississippi with a paid-up capital of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more from making or certifying to abstracts of title to real estate through the president, secretary or other principal officer of such company.

The Mississippi Bar is not empowered to enforce this statute. The Mississippi Bar’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee may share this information with other persons and agencies in an effort to improve the protection of the public and to coordinate enforcement of the law. However, to prosecute your particular case, please contact directly your local law enforcement office.