



HENRY McMASTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 5, 2009

Mr. Jim Buckmaster  
CEO, craigslist  
1381 9th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94122

Dear Mr. Buckmaster:

I hope you will take immediate steps to end craigslist from being used to facilitate harmful activities in South Carolina.

As you are aware, in November 2008 you entered into an agreement with forty state attorneys general and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to install safeguards to combat unlawful activity and improve public safety on the craigslist internet classified service. This occurred after law enforcement officers across the country called attention to the misuse of the craigslist site to facilitate unlawful activity.

Recent national events, along with ongoing law enforcement efforts in South Carolina, indicate that craigslist has not installed sufficient safeguards since November to prohibit the Internet site from being used as a vehicle to advertise or solicit prostitution.

Also of concern is the unrestricted manner in which graphic pornographic pictures are posted and displayed by users on the craigslist site and their accessibility to minors.

Many of the classified and communication services on the craigslist site provide the public with a valuable service. However, it appears that the management of craigslist has knowingly allowed the site to be used for illegal and unlawful activity after warnings from law enforcement officials and after an agreement with forty state attorneys general.

Therefore, please be advised that the craigslist management may be subject to criminal investigation and prosecution by this office if the portions of the Internet site dedicated to South Carolina and its municipal regions and which contain categories for and functions allowing for the solicitation of prostitution and the dissemination and posting of graphic pornographic material are not permanently removed on or before 5:00pm EST, the close of business Friday May 15, 2009.

Yours very truly,

  
Henry McMaster