

April 2, 2009

Attorney General Koster sues unscrupulous locksmith company

Kansas City, Mo. -- Attorney General Chris Koster took action today to stop a Florida locksmith company from deceiving and overcharging customers in Kansas City.

According to the Attorney General, Dependable Locks, Inc., violated Missouri law by fraudulently advertising itself by at least 16 different names that all led consumers to one company. In addition, company workers charged consumers 2-3 times more than the price quoted them to unlock their cars.

"This locksmith company clearly has deceived Missourians, tricking them into using their business and then overcharging them," Koster said. "Today I filed suit to stop Dependable Locks, Inc., from defrauding customers and to make restitution to them."

Koster said investigators in the Attorney General's office also found that addresses listed for the different business names were bogus, and led to vacant lots and even homes of individuals not associated with the company. In addition, this locksmith company operated under business names that were not registered with the Missouri Secretary of State as required to conduct business in Missouri.

Koster is urging anyone who believes they have been a victim of Dependable Locks, Inc., to contact his consumer hotline at 800-392-8222 or to go online at www.ago.mo.gov.

In addition, Koster has notified AT&T that it is carrying deceptive advertisements and demanded that the phone company take all appropriate steps to remove the ads, including immediately removing them from electronic sites such as "The Real Yellow Pages" and yellowpages.com.

The following are some of the alternate business names used by Dependable Locks, Inc.:

- A #1 24 Hour Locksmith
- A 24 Hour locksmith
- AAA 24 & 7 day Locksmith
- A Always Available 24 Hour Locksmith
- A Emergency A Locksmith
- A Locksmith Always 24 Hour
- A Locksmith A 1-24 Hour

- A Locksmith 00 24 Hour
- A Locksmith O Always 24 hour
- A Locksmith Service 24 hour
- A Locksmith 24 Hour Emergency
- A Locksmith
- A Kansas City #1 Emergency Locksmith
- 24 hour A Locksmith At St. Louis
- 24 hour A Locksmith
- Locksmith
- 0 24 Hour Locksmith