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MADIGAN: ALLEGED FRAUDULENT IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROVIDERS TARGETED CZECH AND SLOVAK IMMIGRANTS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today filed suit against a Cook County business and its owners for allegedly violating both the Consumer Fraud Act and the Immigration Services Rules while offering to assist Czech and Slovak immigrants.

According to Madigan's complaint filed today in Cook County Circuit Court, Jaroslava Klepova and Krzysztof Radzewicz promised at least six Czech and Slovak nationals that they would complete, prepare and file immigration forms on their behalf with the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Klepova and Radzewicz allegedly promised to file the papers with CIS to obtain a work permit, permanent resident status or other immigration benefits in Canada, when, in fact, anyone seeking to immigrate to Canada must apply through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) instead of CIS.

Madigan's suit also alleges that consumers were never provided a contract, and Klepova and Radzewicz misled consumers by promising to obtain permanent residency status for the consumers within six months to one and a half years. Klepova and Radzewicz charged excessive fees ranging from \$3,500 to \$5,000 and failed to provide consumers with documentation or file numbers showing that they submitted applications with the CIS or CIC as promised.

“Many immigrants place their trust in such service providers to assist them with a sometimes intimidating and confusing process,” Madigan said. “My office works to ensure that unscrupulous providers are not allowed to prey upon people who dream of becoming U.S. citizens.”

According to Madigan's complaint, two Slovak consumers each paid \$5,000 after Klepova and Radzewicz allegedly represented that they would help them to obtain permanent residency status in Canada quickly. Klepova and Radzewicz allegedly promised the consumers that CIS would submit the forms to CIC on their behalf. Klepova and Radzewicz have failed to return one consumer's birth certificate and will not provide either consumer with documentation or a file number showing that they had filed applications as promised.

Four other Czech complainants paid Klepova and Radzewicz between \$3,500 and \$4,000 for assistance in obtaining permanent residency status in Canada. Again, the consumers were promised that CIS would submit the forms to CIC

on their behalf, and Klepova and Radzewicz did not provide documentation or file numbers showing that they had filed applications. Klepova and Radzewicz have refused to return the complainants' money.

Madigan's complaint alleges Klepova, Radzewicz and Liberal Syndicate, Inc. violated the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act and the Immigration Services Rules. Additionally, the complaint alleges that Klepova and Radzewicz failed to register Liberal Syndicate, Inc. as an immigration services provider with Madigan's office, as required by law.

Madigan's lawsuit asks the court to impose a permanent injunction and a civil penalty of \$50,000 and an additional \$50,000 if the court finds the actions were committed with the intent to defraud.

Assistant Attorney General Sarah Alipourian is handling the case for Madigan's Consumer Fraud Division.

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