

EXHIBIT 9



Current conditions for local cities

City Seattle

Current Temperature 54°

Sky Conditions Partly Cloudy

Forecasted Temperatures

Time 4:00pm 7:00pm

Sky Condition Chance of Rain Partly Cloudy

Temperature 52° 48°

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Investigation: Invention Companies' Promises Fall Through



[Wayne Havrelly](#)

KIRO 7 Consumer Investigator

Updated: 6:03 pm PST November 9,2006

Have you ever had an invention idea that you thought just might be the next Velcro® or Post-it® note?

Many people do, and there are companies out there that promise to help make your invention dreams come true.

KIRO 7 Consumer Investigator Wayne Havrelly met with some inventors who claim one of those

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them with nothing but broken dreams.

out a company called InventHelp™, also known as Invention Submissions. I've been investigating complaints from local customers who tell us this company has taken their money, charged thousands, and left them with nothing but frustration. [Click here to WIN prizes.](#)

hard work, Dave German thought his days of tinting car windows in Puyallup

spending long hours cutting and scraping, his wife has been designing a cool retro line of clothing that friends have been raving about.

"We're getting this big response, and we thought maybe we should get a manufacturer and an agent and put them on the web and see what happens," said German.

German dialed a company called InventHelp™ after seeing a TV commercial. He dished out \$12,000 to a salesman he met through the company.

The money was nearly all his savings. German said the salesman promised to help market the clothes and find a manufacturer to mass produce them.

"The next time we contacted him -- oops! -- nobody was there to contact. His phone numbers were all shut off," said German.

"I'm out everything," he said.

Cheryl Youngs also called InventHelp™.

She said she paid \$16,000, hoping the company would market her invention designed to protect snowboarders and skiers from injury.

Youngs said she was told her idea was sent to a long list of manufacturers who all worked closely with InventHelp™. When nothing happened, she called a few of those manufacturers and was told:

"You should never have to pay money up front. Then I thought, 'I've lost everything, I'm never going to get anything back,'" said Youngs.

It gets worse. The InventHelp™ employee Youngs was working with then told her the company was misleading customers, which is why he quit and was now suing InventHelp™.

Arnie Newman said for \$1,500 he could help Youngs get her money back, so she wrote a second big check.

KIRO 7 Consumer Investigator Wayne Havrelly went to InventHelp™'s local office in Federal Way where the current regional manager Jim Folger declined to speak on camera.

Folger told Havrelly the man who used to have his job, Arnie Newman, no longer works for the company.

Company officials in Pittsburgh told Havrelly they slapped Newman with a restraining order saying, "Mr. Newman copied InventHelp™'s contracts and used those contracts to steal money from unwitting inventors."

InventHelp™ claims Dave German and Cheryl Youngs are two of those unwitting inventors.

Havrelly contacted Newman, who said the restraining order against him prevents him from doing an interview. Newman said the \$1,500 he got from Cheryl Youngs was a gift to help with his court costs; however, he admitted he owes Dave German \$12,000.

Newman asked Havrelly for German's phone number and promised to repay him just as soon as he can.

But complaints about InventHelp™ go much deeper than one former employee.

In a 1994 settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, the company paid \$1.2 million for allegedly making "misrepresentations about the success rate and financial gains achieved by its customers."

In the past few years our state attorney general's office has received complaints, and you can read complaint after complaint on consumer web sites.

"I've worked with salesmen a lot. I thought I was smarter than this, but he really suckered us in because I believe in this thing and I wanted it to work," said Paul Downs.

Paul and Debra Downs also claim InventHelp™ mislead them and took their life savings; however, they blame the man who replaced Arnie Newman: Jim Folger, who appeared to fall in love with Paul's trailer hitch idea.

"He said, 'it's been a long time since something like this has come across my desk,' and I took that as it's a good idea," said Downs.

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Patent attorney Rachal Winger has heard similar complaints about InventHelp™ and many other so-called invention promotion companies.

“My experience is you pay these companies a lot of money, you get very little in return and the way the contracts are written, they're really not obligated to do much of anything,” said Winger.

Winger said companies like InventHelp™ break the biggest rule in the invention world, which is quite simply, don't tell anyone about your invention and get a quality patent first.

InventHelp™'s entire pitch is to send your idea to companies that might be interested without ever getting patent protection, and it can be a very convincing pitch when you believe in your product, just ask Dave German

“Unfortunately, I'm a large-hearted human being and I miss things. You trust people – I do, which is not always a good thing,” said German.

As part of that 1994 federal settlement, InventHelp™ now must disclose it's success rate to customers. If you closely read the fine print and then do some math, you'll see that less than one percent of their customers have ever made a profit. Talk about a risky venture. Successful inventors told Havrelly that if you have a great idea your best move is to find a quality patent attorney.

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