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News Update

Scam victims can seek refunds

By Toni Laxson, Tribune

More than two years after the state confiscated a fortune from a Scottsdale man who sold pills purporting to increase penis size, thousands of his hoodwinked customers can recoup their money, authorities said Friday.

A court-appointed receiver will return roughly \$50 million in seized cash and assets to consumers of the Scottsdalebased C.P. Direct Inc., which, besides its most popular product, Longitude, did a lucrative business selling pills that were supposed to enlarge breasts, increase height, burn fat and improve golf swings.

"There are 432,000 identified victims in the (company's) database," said Larry Warfield, the court-appointed receiver, who added that a compensation form was sent to all of them.

Michael Consoli, 46, his nephew, Vincent Passafiume, 30, who lived in Paradise Valley, and others involved with C.P. Direct agreed as part of a plea deal and civil settlement to forfeit \$50 million in luxury homes, a fleet of cars and bank accounts to pay off victims. They also received six-month jail terms and five years' unsupervised probation.

People who purchased products from C.P. Direct can file for a refund by completing a form by Dec. 31. The forms will be reviewed to ensure eligibility, Warfield said. He expected most claims to be under \$250.

So far, fewer than 5,000 have been filed.

Consoli and his partners amassed an estimated \$70 million selling herbal supplements, such as Longitude, that sold for \$60 for a month's supply and cost them \$2.50 to produce.

As part of their plea agreement, they signed documents that the pills do not work.

Money back

For information or a form to request compensation, visit www.cp-receivership.com, or write to C.P. Direct Receivership, P.O. Box 14050, Scottsdale, AZ 85267.

Contact Toni Laxson by *email*, or phone (480) 970-2324

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