

# Why is Parcel Post Plus closing?

## **History of Parcel Post Plus:**

Parcel Post Plus mainly deals with mail, receiving, shipping packages out, and packing items. Many independent “Pack-and-Ship” small businesses are out of business because mail is a dying industry. But with internet package drop offs, there is a lot of work but not much profit. This type of business is good for a married couple where the husband can work 4 days a week and the wife can take care of children and work 3 days a week. Other businesses that are like PPP also sell cellphone plans, motor vehicle documentation, insurance, gift cards and any other small ticket item to produce revenue. In this business, mailbox rental is extremely important because it is supposed to pay for the fixed expenses, such as rent, internet, telephone, light bill and supplies. PPP has to close and you will soon find out the reasons why.

## **History of Ted Brown:**

Ted Brown was a former owner of Parcel Post Plus. According to people that knew him, he had an anti-government philosophy and did not believe that the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution concerning income tax was properly ratified. Instead of leaving the country for political reasons, he stayed in the USA and associated with others of like mind. He created Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) that were fraudulent and were untraceable to creditors, governments and lawyers.

Before 9-11-2001, he was able to obtain birth certificates, IDs and social security numbers from deceased individuals or the elderly. Since the State of New Mexico was the only state out of 50 to then allow anonymous LLCs to be created and operated, he established many shell corporations. Once he obtained all the identity documents and the anonymous New Mexico LLC, he was able to request an EIN number for Federal Tax purposes. With the EIN, he was able to set up a business bank account with checks and debit cards. At that time, he would request a secondary debit card that was attached to the

primary card but without giving a social security number for the secondary debit card.

He would then package the information, quietly advertise and sell each one for \$2000 to \$3000 cash. His scope was nationwide and with salesmen of like mind, they promoted the scam in multiple states. The family of the deceased victim or the elderly victim never knew that they had been scammed because all of the mail ended up at mailboxes at Parcel Post Plus.

With the inefficiency of the Internal Revenue Service, it would take around five years for them to start their investigation and the rule of thumb was to pay another \$3000 every four years to get another new fraudulent LLC and then drop the old one. When the IRS would snoop around, they would find a dead end with a deceased individual or someone in a nursing home. If they asked Ted Brown what he knew, he could just lie and say that he just rented boxes to people and had no knowledge of any crime. The people that purchased his LLCs had the NM state law on LLCs to protect them, a dead end with a deceased or elderly victim that had no idea of what was happening, a slow IRS to come after them, and a legitimate mailbox address to receive mail.

Some of the businesses using the fraudulent LLC were legitimate, mainly consulting. Some were evil. One LLC that was sold was used to cash an insurance check of over \$80,000 that should have gone to another person. One LLC was used to defraud children of a family trust when their parents died. The owner of the LLC would present themselves as a financial advisor and would set up the family trust with the appearance of a fiduciary responsibility. When the parents died, the fraudster would clear out the house, sell the furniture, deposit the check into the LLC from another dead person, remove the money in cash from the ATM and make off with the ill gotten gains.

All of these activities were evil and hurt those that needed help, but the illegal LLCs needed a legitimate physical address to receive mail and it filled up the mailboxes and created an income stream that kept Parcel Post Plus running.

Mr. Ted Brown hired two women that worked at the store but presented themselves as owners. The front worked. As long as the mailboxes from the LLCs paid the bills and kept the store open, they could take the profit from selling stamps, packing, etc. I'm sure they didn't pay tax on their income either.

Then Ted Brown died. The gravy train stopped and most of his illegal LLCs fled the mailboxes and therefore there was no revenue to support the business. Like cockroaches seeing the light of day, they no longer had a rock to hide under and so the two women were in the process of closing the store when another anti-government individual came by- Mark.

### **History of Mark Berent:**

Mark Berent also had an anti-government philosophy and attended "Freedom" meetings where he met many like minded people.

Once he found out that Ted Brown had died, he stopped by Parcel Post Plus and spoke with the two women that were in the process of closing down the business. He made an agreement with them and received the passwords to the shipping accounts, switched over the information to another name - not his own - adopted the business for free and proceeded to run it tax free. The two women then disappeared.

During this time, the salesman scammers came around and asked him to consider continuing the very profitable illegal activity and unfortunately, he agreed to create fraudulent LLCs. When he created the LLCs, he did not rent out the mailboxes and so the entire business was being supported by illegal activity. Once again, Mark received payment for LLC's in cash but did not fill up the mailboxes with the LLC companies, and thus, no ongoing income to support the business.

A mutual acquaintance introduced me to Mark and since I needed a mailbox, he established one for me. Over a period of time, I got to superficially know Mark and discussed health treatments with him. We even went on a vacation together with other people. But when we went on vacation, all he wanted to

do was sleep so I figured out that working at Parcel Post Plus was very demanding.

Mark worked here for 3 years and his personality changed over the time that I knew him. Around six months before his death at 52, I noticed that he was short tempered and angry due to stress but I did not realize that it would cause him his early death. He mentioned that he thought that the “government” was bugging Parcel Post Plus and that all of our conversations were being taped. I knew something was wrong with his thought process because he became very paranoid. When people wanted a job, he would reject them because he thought they were “government” agents. Some of his associates commented to me later that he complained of chest tightness and pain and thought that he was in the early stages of getting a heart attack. Mark would not listen to his body or to anyone else concerning his health and continued working seven days a week since the illegal LLC money was so good. When he passed, he had only 12% of the mail boxes rented.

Mark died unexpectedly from over work, heart attack, and stress in May 2016.

### **History of Jeffrey:**

I was vacationing in May 2016 when one of Mark’s friends told him that Mark was very sick and that if I wanted to see him again, I should cut my trip short. By the time I got to Albuquerque, instead of going to the hospital, I went to his funeral and was in shock because he was so young. After the funeral, Mark’s friends came to the shop to talk about his death. His friends discussed what to do with the shop and no one wanted to run it because they would have to divulge their social security number to the “government”. All of his “Freedom” friends had legal problems and they were afraid that the “government” was going to get them for failure to pay taxes, failure to pay child support, failure to contact the state taxing authorities, etc. They all stood around and chatted but didn’t exert any energy to help the customers that were still coming in. Mark’s daughter and I stayed at the shop to help customers with their mailing, cleaned up the shop and kept the doors open. We decided to close the business and I stayed around to help her. Every time

we started a new project, we had to stop because of customers coming in for services. We wondered if closing a very active business was wise. She stayed for another two weeks and then drifted off as she needed to support herself after the death of her father.

Eventually, the friends of Mark that kept talking about the shop, stopped coming to the shop, and by default, I became the new owner of a very busy little business.

I did not know about the illegal activities that the two previous owners had engaged in. No one knew except for the criminals that had been in cahoots with the previous owners. It was revealed to me bit by bit by lawyers, IRS agents, subpoenas, and customers.

It took around 5 months for me to learn the inventory, computer and financial systems that were in use at Parcel Post Plus. Since Mark made the bulk of his money off of illegal creation of LLCs, I had to backtrack what I could of with his scant financial records. Immediately, bills were due which I paid for out of my personal funds – a cost of getting a business for free.

Running the business took over 75 hours a week and I was now working 7 days straight with no breaks. Slowly, the business started to make money but the income went directly to the bills – rent first. I prepaid rent so that the business could stay open and at one time was seven weeks ahead.

Around that time, I asked his teen aged daughter if she would want to legally be my business partner as I was unable to run the store by myself. She was unable to do so as the business didn't make any money and she needed to eat, live in an apartment and survive. She had to drop out of college and unfortunately, she lost an entire semester as her father died during finals week. She also did not know of the illegal activities that had taken place here at Parcel Post Plus. So I continued the business on my own with the hope of being able to turn a profit, support her through school and run an efficient, legal and ethical business.

The demands of the business were so great that I asked a friend of four years to consider working and being a business partner with me at Parcel Post Plus. My friend could work with me and we could build a business so that we could have something in our old age. We could also share the work load. After considering, Freddie A. Trujillo, agreed to work at Parcel Post Plus and become a business partner. I would be the one that distributes profit and writes the check for the bills.

We cleaned up the store, and continued to learn the mailing systems. He would read about the crime situation in Albuquerque and I bought a gun to keep at work for protection. I purchased a car for the business needs and he drove it from Bernalillo to Parcel Post Plus. Rent was paid and bills were paid, albeit slowly. My business partner wanted to hire his mother for odd jobs around the business. Not only was there little money to hire her but there was even less for my basic living needs.

I had made plans to visit my family for Thanksgiving and after extensive discussions with him, decided to go but come back for the Christmas rush.

Unbeknownst to me, during that time period, my business partner hired his mother and started to embezzle money from Parcel Post Plus. I would call the shop to see if any questions needed to be answered, any procedure needed explaining, or any bills that were not paid that needed my attention. I would receive the same typical answer, "There is nothing to worry about. Everything is fine". The extensive discussions ceased and one sentence answers prevailed. I started wondering and decided to cut short my trip and arrived unannounced. It was Tuesday and I found the store closed. I reopened it and made a little bit for the rent.

He showed up the next day, was nervous and left early because of his high blood pressure. He worked just a few days and then left work with the car and the gun on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, during the busiest season of the year and didn't return again. He walked out of the store with customers waiting! He stole a gun and a car. On his way home from fleeing from Parcel Post Plus, he stopped by the bank and claimed fraud on the business account and I was not able to make any withdrawals or write checks to pay bills but

deposits were accepted. He then used a cell phone payment service called “Square” to siphon off the revenue and the sales tax from the state. He stole the sales tax from the State of New Mexico! Once a customer paid, but before it was deposited into the bank account, he would transfer it to his personal account. (No customer’s information was stolen). To correct all of this mess took many hours away from serving my customers. In typical New Mexico fashion, his motto was, “Why work when you can steal”. I immediately went into debt to keep the business going and had to struggle even more for the next 11 months until Christmas came around.

During the next 11 months, I also found out that Freddie A. Trujillo was creating LLCs at home for customers on the sly and pocketing the money. An expert that I consulted said that his LLCs were not valid but not criminal. In other words, he didn’t know what he was doing and the purchaser lost his money. Along with the LLCs, Freddie A. Trujillo had made agreements to sell marijuana concentrate drops in little bottles. I stopped all of that when I found out about it. The marijuana salesman threatened to beat me up because I wouldn’t sell his product and he said that I owed money to him even though Freddie A. Trujillo had secretly made an agreement with him.

Then Parcel Post Plus was visited by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. They came over more than five times to discuss certain people and specific boxes. Once I was served by the government, I had to produce information that I had. Mark Berent and Ted Brown left very little information but I still had to produce it. Once the Albuquerque IRS office realized that I was cooperating, I got served by the IRS office in California. All this happened as I was trying to keep the business afloat.

Then the lawyers started sending me multiple subpoenas from Texas, New Mexico and Utah. Each subpoena took around 5 hours of research which further drained the finances of Parcel Post Plus. I had to hire more help on the weekends and work even more than 75 hours a week. To top it off, the lawyers were really chintzy with paying me anything for my time to produce information for them. One even video taped me for their deposition. All this happened in between me selling stamps to make a small profit to pay for the rent.

Over the time that I ran the business, I would get numerous phone calls, personal visits, cryptic notes left for me from the “Freedom” salesmen. They were the same promoters that were selling the \$3000 fraudulent LLCs. I kept my mouth shut and let them do the talking. I found out that they were felons that served six months for tax fraud, had scammed the government out of thousands of dollars and had a general hatred for authority. In other words, they were weirdos but they told me many secret things about Parcel Post Plus. They wanted me to give them \$3000 and they would have me educated on the way to scam the Federal Government in the post 9-11 world. They were still current on the changes from the Patriot act and how to bypass it. They taught me how to create a LLC and continue the scam. I just listened and wanted nothing to do with it. The “Freedom” people were so cheap that they refused to take me out to eat to discuss the details. One way that I got a meal out of them was to say that Mark thought that the building was bugged by the “government” and it would be best to discuss illegal activity at a restaurant. After I said that, I got him to buy me a meal and a white Russian to discuss his illegal plan. It was another piece of the mystery about Parcel Post Plus.

Now remember, this all happened as I was trying to run a business.

One day, the IRS revenue agent came in to get updated information on a box. The next day, the “Freedom” felon salesman came to visit me and looked very concerned. His scammer cohort had been visited by the IRS in Texas and he wanted me to warn him if anyone came around asking questions. He saw the IRS agent’s business card on my desk and freaked out. He asked a few questions and his paranoia increased. He turned white as a ghost, lost his breath and drove away.

I heard that he came to visit me with another proposal in March. I’m sure it involved hating the government and taking people’s money.

After working the next Christmas, I was able to produce \$2500 profit which went immediately to the rent, Christmas bonus for the workers and back pay for one employee. With all that happened, the Fed Ex account and the UPS account went into arrears and they were canceled. So having a mailing place with only DHL and US Mail wasn’t working. PPP never made a profit.

During my time here, my employees and I increased the mail box rentals up to 45% occupancy versus the 12% when I took over the business, but it wasn't enough.

I had to make a decision of how much of non-existent reserves should be invested in the business and for how long to break even. I guesstimated \$20,000 over a period of 30 months. After discussing the following with my confidants, workers, etc., I decided that the best option was to close the store.

Mark's daughter has now obtained full time employment and is no longer a teenager. My moral obligation to my deceased friend is now finished.

What pushed me over the top to make the decision to close Parcel Post Plus was that I started to have a tightness below my left nipple on either side of my rib. The tenseness would not go away and would wake me up at night. It lasted five months. Neither massage nor swimming would alleviate the problem. The left side is where the heart is located. I also noticed that I started to show physical and personality traits that I saw in Mark around six months before his death from a heart attack.

Once I made the decision to close and figured out how to take care of my customers, box holders and after school workers, the tenseness decreased 80%.

This business really needed to be shut down by the Federal Government after Ted Brown's death. It would have protected many innocent people.

So as you can see, I must close the business and put the former owners back into their crypts.

Thank you to all my box holders, customers and the after school workers that kept this business afloat and legitimate for two years. There is no more money to continue this business and thus, must close.

Beware of "Freedom" lovers.  
Jeffrey Rich