

DATING SERVICES

Trap

Jared in Jupiter felt like his life was in a rut. He was working full time and wanted to meet new people. Jared received a flyer in the mail inviting him to join other singles and meet new people. He went to the agency, signed a contract for 15 introductions and paid \$2,500. During the first six months of the contract, the agency arranged only one introduction and two dinner dances. Jared didn't meet anyone he was interested in dating and wanted a refund. The agency denied his refund request.

Tips

Dating services are not licensed by a government agency. It is important to read and understand the terms of any dating contract and to know exactly what services you are purchasing.

- Does the contract allow refunds? Some agencies deduct an initiation fee on the day the contract is signed. Sometimes this fee is not refundable once an introduction has been arranged by the company.
- The agency may promise they have many clients who fit your profile. Find out how many active members are in the database. Ask about the percentage of members in your age group, profession, etc.
- Understand that an introduction to another member does not guarantee compatibility. Lack of "chemistry" or "connection" with other clients does not necessarily mean the business failed to meet its contractual obligations.
- There are many ways to meet new people and get out of a rut. Along with dating services, consider joining special interest clubs or service organizations or taking a class at a community college or adult education center. You can also pursue hobbies that enable you to meet people of similar interests.
- It is always very important to thoroughly read a contract. Also, make sure all verbal promises are put in writing as an addition to the contract. Request and keep a copy for your records.

For more information, contact Palm Beach County Consumer Affairs



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