



## Want legitimate work from the comfort of your own home?

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By Jeff Ehling

(5/10/06 - KTRK/HOUSTON) (KTRK) -- Who wouldn't want the chance to work at home? It's a dream that is becoming a reality for many Houstonians. We're always receiving questions about this in the consumer office. How can I work from home? How do I know if a company offering that chance is legit? Well, here is an opportunity that offers the real deal.

It's around 10:30am at a southwest Houston home. The kids are gone and all is quiet... except in one room. That's because Felicia Wright is at work at home answering calls.

"The best part about this job is not having anyone over your head," she said. "That's the best job and the best thing because you not only have the flexibility, but you're comfortable. There is nothing like working at your own home and your own office."

Wright's been working this way for two years. She enjoys saving gas while still enjoying the perks like health, life, and dental insurance, plus 401K benefits.

Other work at home offers Wright looked at in the past wanted money up front. She didn't like the sound of that and is grateful for her current position.

"It's hard to believe you can have a call center and can make a decent living at home and it's not a myth," she said. "It is the truth and you can do it."

So who's offering these jobs? A company called Alpine Access out of Colorado and they already employ plenty of work at home people right here in Houston.

"We look for smart, professional people who are comfortable with the Internet," said Allanna Kelsall with Alpine Access. "They have to have a degree of technical capability so they can troubleshoot minor difficulties on their own from home."

Alpine Access is hired by companies like Office Depot, J. Crew, and even the IRS to provide customer service, order taking, and problem resolution over the phone.

Jobs are farmed out, but kept here in the United States. To work, you need a computer with Internet access, a standard phone line, and good telephone etiquette. Customer service experience is a plus, but not necessary.

The starting pay is nine dollars per hour with part time positions of 20 to 35 hours a week available.

"They are really ideal for stay at home moms, retirees, disabled individuals or folks who just want to supplement their income or do additional work from their home," said Kelsall.

We are told Alpine Access likes to promote from within, so there is an opportunity for advancement.