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## SCAM ALERT!



A Consumer Update from Mat Heck, Jr., Prosecuting Attorney



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### Don't Be a Victim of Sweepstakes or Prize Scams

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Someone may fictitiously claim you have won the lottery, a contest, or other prize. In order to collect your winnings, however, you'll be asked to pay an advance fee, often via wire-transfer or money order.

This is a scam. Legitimate sweepstakes are free and require no purchase.



To avoid these scams:

- Do not agree to pay ANY fee up front for winning a prize of sweepstakes.
- Do not give out personal information, such as date of birth or social security number, to anyone claiming that you won a prize or sweepstakes.
- REMEMBER you have to enter to win. If you haven't entered a drawing or sweepstakes, then don't fall for someone telling you that you have won.

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The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

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