



SCAM ALERT!

A Consumer Update from
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Congratulations!

You've Been Selected to be Scammed!

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Lottery scams continue to be a jackpot for criminals. "Winners" of contests, lotteries or sweepstakes receive a "teaser" check, but are told that they must send money for insurance, processing fees, transfer fees, and/or other expenses before they will get the balance of the jackpot. The teaser check inevitably proves to be counterfeit, but sometimes it takes weeks for the bank, and the winner, to discover that. The "winner" is nonetheless out any money they have sent in for "fees" and of course there is no jackpot. It's all part of a trick to part you with your money or personal information.

Here's what you need to know about these scams:

- If you didn't buy a lottery ticket from an authorized vendor, or enter a sweepstakes, you didn't win, plain and simple.
- No legitimate lottery will ever contact you with news of a win; it's your responsibility to step forward with the winning ticket in hand.
- Legitimate sweepstakes will contact you if you win, but they will never ask you to send them any fees in order to claim your prize.
- Check winning numbers with your state lottery website or through media reports.

Finally, be alert to shady retailers who pilfer winning tickets brought in for redemption. They scan the ticket, claim you didn't win (or won only a small amount) and then pocket the ticket (and all or the rest of your winnings.)

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 Jennifer Heapy, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Sarah Schenck, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.