

Lottery Sweepstakes Scams

Many people are inundated with emails stating they have won millions in a lottery or sweepstakes. The emails will often contain links to websites that are fake but appear legitimate. There is almost always a sense of urgency to claim the prize and always a initially a small fee involved to claim the money or prize. Ultimately that small fee leads to additional fees as the money seems to be getting closer into the victims hands. At some point after the victim has sent in some cases thousands of dollars to recover their prize by paying fictitious taxes etc, they realize that the money will never arrive. The scammers will require money sent to them by wire transfer or credit card. Recent versions have the scammers requesting the victims banking information.

Key things to Consider

- Lottery Winners are not notified by email.
- You cannot win without first buying a lottery ticket
- Lotteries do not randomly select email addresses to award prizes to.
- Be wary of emails emanating from free email accounts (Yahoo, Hotmail,Gmail etc)
- Lottery companies do use cell phone numbers.
- Lotteries do not instruct you to keep your winnings secret.
- Legitimate lotteries never require any fees up front to your winnings.

Finally -If you don't recognize who sent you an email – it's a good practice to delete it!