

SCAM ALERT:

Lottery & Sweepstakes Scams



Arizona Attorney General
Mark Brnovich



Scam at a glance:

You receive an email, card, letter, or fax saying that you've won a prize, usually from a lottery or sweepstakes that you don't remember entering. To claim your prize, you have to pay money up front. No matter how much you pay, the prize never comes.

Lured by prospects of instant wealth, far too many consumers are responding to lottery and sweepstakes solicitations. Unfortunately, seniors are more likely to be targeted by these solicitations.

Warning Signs:

- You are asked to send any money in order to receive your prize.
- There is a limited window of time to claim your prize or winnings.
- The lottery or sweepstakes is based in a foreign country.
- You are asked for your bank information so funds can be "direct deposited" into your account.
- You are asked to purchase gift cards or send a money order to collect your prize.

Protect Yourself:

- Never pay money to claim a prize.
- Recognize that you will never win a foreign lottery.
- Do not respond to any correspondence you think may be a scam.
- Never disclose your sensitive personal information in response to winning a prize.
- Do your homework:
 - Research reputable lotteries and contact them directly if you genuinely believe you have won something.
 - Check the claims process on the back of your ticket.
- If you think you have provided bank account information to a scammer, notify your bank immediately.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- If you encounter one of these scams, report it to the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Resources:

Arizona Attorney General's Office

www.azag.gov/complaints/consumer

Phoenix: (602) 542 - 5763, Tucson: (520) 628 - 6648
or Toll-free: (800) 352 - 8431

Task Force Against Senior Abuse Helpline

(602) 542 - 2124 or (844) 894 - 4735

Federal Trade Commission

www.ftc.gov or (877) 382 - 4357

www.azag.gov/seniors/scamalert