

February/March
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Rockland County TRIAD Program

Reducing Crimes Against Seniors

845-638-5582

www.co.rockland.ny.us



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BOGUS LOTTERIES/SWEEPSTAKES

Lottery and sweepstakes scams seem to be increasing at an alarming rate throughout the world and specifically in the United States. Although many may have their origins in Canada, still many others are based in various parts of the globe. Bogus lotteries have been around for a long time, but they remain a huge source of revenue for con operators. Intended victims receive a mailed, e-mailed, or telephone notification that they have won thousands of dollars in a lottery. If in letterform, the letter comes with official looking seals and appears very authentic. The catch is that the "winner" has to pay a processing fee, taxes or some other amount before receiving the expected windfall.

It's probably a scam if the letter or email contains any one of the following phrases or a portion of the following phrases:

COMMON PHRASES USED:

- FROM: THE DESK OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
FROM: THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROMOTION
FROM: INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION/PRIZE AWARD DEPT.
FROM THE DESK OF THE PROMOTIONS MANAGER,
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS AWARD DEPARTMENT
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION/PRIZE AWARD DEPT
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION/PRIZE AWARD DEPT.
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS / PRIZE AWARD DEPARTMENT,
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INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS/PRIZE AWARD DEPT
- *"All participants were selected through a computer ballot system drawn from 30,000 names from Australia, New Zealand, America, Asia, Europe, Africa, USA and North America as part of our International Promotions Program, which will subsequently be conducted annually"*.
- *Mention of any kind of "claim agent."*



*“If you have won a legitimate lottery, **you do not pay any upfront fees to anyone.... at any time.... for any reason!!!”**”*

- *"Due to the mix up of some numbers and names, we ask that you keep this award strictly from public notice until your claim has been processed and your money remitted to your account. This is part of our security protocol to avoid double claiming or unscrupulous acts by participants of this program."*
- *"N.B. Any breach of confidentiality on the part of the winners will result to disqualification."*
- *"You are seriously advised to keep all winning lottery information and numbers from the public in line with our company security protocol to avoid double claiming and unwarranted abuse of this program by unscrupulous individuals."*
- *"All participants were selected randomly from World Wide Web site through computer draw system and extracted from over 100,000 companies."*
- *"This lottery was promoted and sponsored by Bill Gates; Microsoft; The Sultan of Brunei, or Jesse Jackson”.*

OTHER FRAUD FACTORS:

- **Requests for money.** The most important fraud indicator is a request for money. This request usually appears in the 2nd or 3rd letter, either at the same time as the request for personal information, or in a letter that arrives once you've provided your personal information. Lottery scam letters are part of what is called an Advance Fee Fraud. If you have won a legitimate lottery, **you do not pay any upfront fees to anyone.... at any time.... for any reason.** You pay income taxes to your government only by filing your government's income tax forms and sending your money directly to your government yourself. Taxes for foreign governments are removed directly from the winnings before the payout.
- No legitimate lottery web site exists without their lottery rules posted. Legitimate rules can be verified by going to the web site of government-sponsored lotteries.
- No country of origin is listed.
- A statement that the funds will be sent to you by a courier or security service and that you have to pay the courier service for the delivery and/or storage.
- You are told that you have to travel to the country where the lottery was held in order to claim your winnings. This is a trick to get you to say that you will not travel to any country to pick up your winnings. Their reply is to give you all kinds of phony reasons for paying false fees in order to get the winnings to you.
- You are sent a check written on the account of a person or company you do not know, or you are sent a cashier's check (bank check). Either way you are told that you must deposit or cash the check and send some of the money either back to them or on to another person. **THE CHECK IS COUNTERFEIT and you will be held responsible for the full value of the check.**

IF YOU DIDN'T PLAY THAT LOTTERY – HOW COULD YOU BE A WINNER?