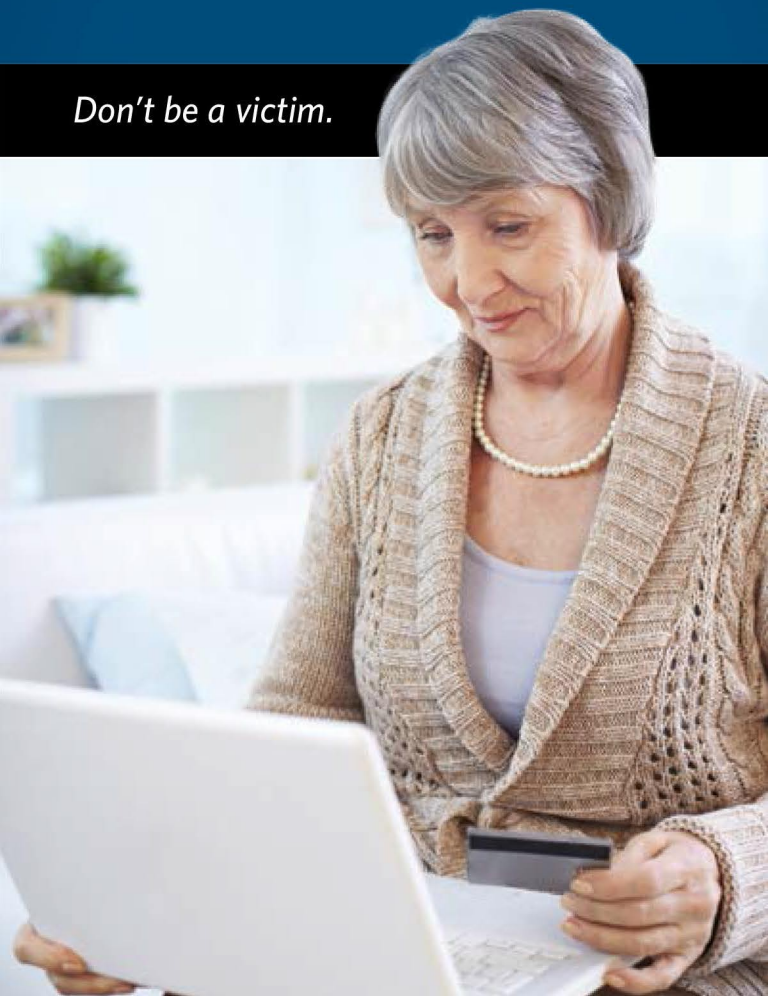




ALERT!

Avoid Lottery Scams

Don't be a victim.



Scam vs. Truth



The Scam

"You've won! All you need to do is pay a small processing fee and we will send you your check!"



The Truth

Legitimate lotteries never demand money up front to release your winnings.



The Scam

"If you cash my winning ticket, I'll share the winning jackpot with you."



The Truth

The con artist will take your money and leave you with a fake or worthless ticket.



The Scam

"Let's call the Lottery right now. They'll be able to tell us that this is a winning ticket."



The Truth

The California Lottery never confirms over the phone that a draw game ticket is the winner. The "Lottery" person on the phone is part of the scam.



Email Scams

Email lottery scams are designed to look and sound official. Delete any emails you receive regarding unclaimed funds or prizes stating that you must call a designated representative who will ask you for your personal information and a processing fee in order to claim your prize. These emails can become very convincing, and if you do speak to a “representative,” they are even more convincing. This is a scam!



Telephone Scams

Telephone lottery scams have increased to epidemic levels in some states. There are dozens of variations of winner scams, but they usually have one thing in common: the supposed winner needs to send money before the prize can be released. Don't fall for it!

View further examples of how lottery scam artists operate and what to avoid:

CALOTTERY.COM/SCAMS





Foreign Lottery Scams

Federal law enforcement authorities are intercepting and destroying millions of foreign lottery mailings being sent into the U.S. by the truckload. Telemarketing scammers are also targeting the elderly with aggressive and clever sales techniques. Some victims have lost their life savings. Remember, it is **ILLEGAL** to play a foreign lottery in the United States.



Website Scams

Some criminals have gone so far as establishing websites to give their scams a more legitimate look. The **ONLY** website for the California Lottery is www.calottery.com. Never purchase lottery products via any website asking you to subscribe or divulge personal information. More and more crooks are also using Facebook to trick potential victims.



Letter/Fax Scams

Although far less common today, letter and fax-based lottery scams do exist. Never deposit a suspicious check you have received in the mail from a supposed lottery organization. The letter informs you of your winnings, instructs you to deposit the enclosed check, and wire a portion back to the sender as a fee before you can receive the balance. After wiring the fee, the victim is notified by their bank that the original check bounced and they are responsible for the entire amount.

HELPFUL TIPS

Ignore all emails, letters or phone calls from unknown individuals or entities soliciting money from you. Also ignore requests for personal or financial information.

To report a suspicious email, letter, phone call, fax or website, or to report criminal activity involving Lottery products, please call the California Lottery Security & Law Enforcement Division at 1-800-LOTTERY (1-800-568-8379). If you are a victim of consumer fraud, you can also call the California State Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit at 1-800-952-5225.





Always remember:

- The Lottery would **NEVER** charge you to get your prize.
- A Lottery official would **NEVER** personally contact you about winning a jackpot.
- A Lottery official would **NEVER** ask you for money up front.
- There's **NO WAY** to win a lottery prize if you didn't play a lottery game.

What you should know about playing California Lottery games:

- Buy lottery tickets only from authorized California Lottery retailers.
- Always sign the back of your ticket immediately after buying it.
- Retailers are not authorized to charge commission or cashing fees to redeem your prize.
- The only lottery that is legally authorized to operate in California is the California Lottery.
- Assigning or transferring a winning lottery prize before a ticket is claimed is prohibited.



Don't Become a Target

Various scam artists have been attempting to impersonate California Lottery, *Powerball*® and *Mega Millions*® staff to steal people's identities, credit card numbers, banking information and cash.

- Never give your credit card, social security, passport or bank account numbers to anyone promising lottery cash prizes.
- Be suspicious of "urgent" solicitations that suggest you will lose a prize if you don't act immediately.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Ask questions
Listen carefully
Educate yourself
Refuse to be pressured
Tell the authorities

Need to report a scam?

If you think you've been the target of a lottery scam, notify your local law enforcement agency immediately and contact the California Lottery Security & Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to report the incident. You can also file reports with state and federal government agencies.

Report Scams and Suspicious Activity

California Lottery Security &
Law Enforcement Division
916-822-8282
reportfraud@calottery.com



Suspicious Lottery Email, Phone, or Mail Campaigns

Federal Trade Commission
1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)
www.ftc.gov

U.S. Postal Inspection Service
1-800-372-8347
www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Internet Fraud Campaigns

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
www.ic3.gov

Additional Information

California State Attorney General's Office
1-800-952-5225
oag.ca.gov/consumers

700 North 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
1-800-LOTTERY (1-800-568-8379)
www.calottery.com

