

SOME TIPS TO REMEMBER:

- If it's too good to be true, it probably is!
- If it comes from Canada, Europe, Africa, or Asia, it is probably a scam.
- ***If you didn't enter, how can you win?***
It's also illegal to enter out of country lotteries.
- English, grammar, and spelling are usually very bad. If the pitch comes in the form of a telephone call, the scammer may have a foreign accent.
- Even if you are given a telephone number and address, the telephone is probably a throw away cell phone (untraceable) and the address is probably non-existent. Remember, these people always want you to **WIRE** them money, not mail a check.
- Never provide any personal information, such as social security number, credit card or bank account information over the phone, particularly to someone **who has contacted you**. Contact your bank, credit card company or other business and ask if they have requested this information over the internet or phone. ***Remember, they already have the information—they don't need to ask for it again.***
- These people are smooth. If you receive a phone call, they will try to be your best friend and pretend they are working in your best interest. If you decline their offer, they may turn pushy and nasty. ***Just hang up or delete or block!***

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TO REPORT FRAUD & SCAMS:

FBI/Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)
www.ic3.gov
Federal Trade Commission
www.ftc.gov

For additional information on Scams and to read more about the various scams both old and new, go to
www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0038-onguardonline
www.atg.wa.gov
www.aarp.org (search for "scams")

These sites have excellent information on all sorts of scams and are updated regularly.

If you haven't already done so, you may want to sign up for the **Do Not Call Registry**. Once on this list, telemarketers are not supposed to call you. You can register via internet with the FTC, or phone 1-888-382-1222. This is a free service.

Unfortunately, ***these scams are rarely, if ever, solved*** as most of the scammers are out of the country.

Do not feel bad about hanging up on someone who calls you wanting money, or personal information!

IF YOU ARE ASKED TO WIRE MONEY IT IS A SCAM!! IF YOU RECEIVE A CHECK FOR OVER THE AMOUNT, IT IS A SCAM!! NEVER WIRE MONEY TO ANYONE YOU DON'T PERSONALLY KNOW FOR ANY REASON. ITS NOT TRACEABLE MOST OF THE TIME.

How Not to Become a Victim of **SCAMS** 2019



**WALLA WALLA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
240 W. Alder Street, 101
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362
(509) 524-5400
Fax: (509) 524-5480
sheriff@co.walla-walla.wa.us
www.facebook.com/WWSheriff
www.co.walla-walla.wa.us**



WHAT IS A SCAM?

A scam is any means someone uses to get you to part with your money. A scam can occur over the telephone, through the mail, over the internet, or in person. Most scams originate from Canada, Europe, Asia, and Africa and are virtually impossible to solve or discover who the scammer is.

Below are some of the more popular scams and how they operate.

LOTTERY/CONTEST SCAMS:

It begins with an email, phone call or letter claiming you have won a lottery or contest. You are to contact a claims agent to collect your winnings, usually at an email address or telephone number. You contact the claims agent who either sends a claim form to verify your identity which you must return with your personal details along with copies of your passport and driver's license to "verify your true identity". The scammers now have enough information to duplicate your identity.

At some point, you may receive a check, usually a cashier's check, for thousands of dollars. The checks are usually on U.S. companies, even though the scam comes from Australia or Canada. You will be asked to deposit the check and wire a certain percentage, usually about 75%, to cover fees and taxes, before your big check arrives. The cashier's checks are counterfeit and have no value whatsoever. If you deposit the check and take cash back, your bank will and can hold you responsible for paying back the money withdrawn. If you get any type of lottery

notification, ignore it. Legitimate sweepstakes or lotteries (state lotteries) don't require you to pay "taxes" or fees in advance.

Remember:

If you didn't enter the lottery or contest, how could you win?

"PHISHING" SCAMS:

Internet scammers cast about for your financial information, thus, it is called "phishing." In a "phishing" scam, an email or pop-up window, which appears to be from a legitimate company or bank, informs the recipient their account may have become compromised or they have lost information. The recipient is directed to click on a link. The victims are then forwarded to a Website that appears identical to the legitimate one. The fraudulent Website requires the victim to enter personal and account information in order to verify their account. The victim is told that if the information is not provided, the account will be suspended. This information can then be used by criminals to make purchases or open new accounts in the victim's name. Some of the more popular businesses used are banks, e-Bay, PayPal, the IRS, among others.

Legitimate businesses will never use the internet to obtain information.

INTERNET AUCTIONS:

You've advertised a car, boat, horse, or other big ticket item on one of the many internet auction or sale sites. You get an email from someone who just happens to be overseas right now, either visiting or living there and they want to purchase your sale item. They tell you they have an agent in the U.S. who will pick up the item. Once a couple of e-mails have gone back and forth, the buyer says that he owes some money to the agent or the agent requires money up front to ship or pick up the item. The

buyer states that he will send you a check for \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 over the purchase price or 3 or 4 US Postal Money Orders and would you please wire the excess amount to his agent. **These are counterfeit at best.**

Once the "buyer" has your money, you will never hear from him again. **DO NOT EVER DEPOSIT OR CASH A CHECK FOR ANYTHING OVER THE ORIGINAL AMOUNT— It is a scam!!!**

THE GRANDPARENT SCAM:

You receive a "panic" call from your "grandchild" who claims to be injured or in jail. In Canada. In order to get out of the hospital/jail, you must wire money to a friend. The scammers are hoping you will say something like "il this John" or Mary" ? The asking price is anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,000. **VERIFY:** Call your relative or Relative's parents/spouse to find out where your "grandchild" or other relative is. These calls usually come late at night, attempting to catch you off guard.

WORK AT HOME/SECRET SHOPPER

You answer a help wanted ad for a "bookkeeper" to cash and deposit checks for out of country business. You will be able to keep a percentage of the money after you wire a couple of thousands dollars back to the "business". Secret shopper just wants you to "wire" the cash- you are not "secret shopping" you are providing the scammers with the money.