

Fake Prize and Charity Scams

Scammers pose as representatives of charitable organizations or lottery/sweepstakes companies, falsely claiming that the victim has won a foreign lottery or sweepstakes. To collect the winnings, the victim is told they must first pay fees or taxes.

Scammers may contact you claiming you've won a lottery or sweepstakes you never entered. To claim the prize, they'll demand upfront payment for fees or taxes. They might even pose as well-known organizations like Publishers Clearing House to seem legitimate.



Resist the pressure to act immediately. Scammers rely on creating a sense of urgency to make you act without thinking.

Take your time to assess the situation carefully.



Verify the identity of the caller or sender by asking questions that only the real person or organization would know.

Contact the agency or person directly using a trusted number or an official source.



Do not provide personal, financial, or account details to unsolicited callers, emails, or messages.

Sharing this information can lead to identity theft or financial fraud.



Do not send money through wire transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.

Legitimate organizations will never ask for payment in these forms or demand immediate payments.



If you receive a suspicious call, end it immediately without providing any information.

Scammers rely on keeping you engaged, so hanging up is your best defense.



Notify the appropriate authorities, such as your local law enforcement agency, about the suspicious activity.

Reporting helps protect others from becoming victims and assists in tracking down scammers.



Share details of the scam with family, friends, and colleagues to raise awareness and prevent them from falling victim.

Spreading the word helps others recognize and avoid similar scams.