

You Didn't Win You Were Targeted

Prize Scams

In prize scams, fraudsters claim you have won a large prize, sweepstakes, or contest that you did not enter. They ask for payment, taxes, or processing fees to release the "winnings." Sometimes they request personal information to verify your identity. The scam's goal is to get money or sensitive data from the victim before they realize the prize isn't real.

RED FLAGS

- Being told you won a prize you aren't expecting.
- Requests for payment or fees upfront to claim the prize.
- Pressure to act quickly or keep the prize a secret.

BE SCAM SMART

- Never pay fees or provide personal information to claim an unexpected prize.
- Verify sweepstakes or contest legitimacy independently through official sources.
- Be cautious of phone calls, emails, or letters claiming you've won without entering.

Lottery and Sweepstakes Fraud

Lottery or sweepstakes scams are similar to prize scams, where scammers claim you've won money, gift cards, or a vacation. They often say you must pay taxes or fees in advance to

receive your winnings. Fraudsters may use official-looking documents, logos, or websites to appear legitimate. Their goal is to get your money or personal information before the scam is discovered.

RED FLAGS

- Unexpected notification of winnings requiring upfront payment.
- Requests for personal or financial information to "release" winnings.
- Pressure to act immediately to claim the prize.

BE SCAM SMART

- Remember that legitimate lotteries never ask for fees upfront to claim winnings.
- Do not provide personal or financial information to unsolicited contacts claiming you've won.
- Check official lottery websites or contact authorities to verify any claimed prize.

Where to Report a Suspected Scam:

- Prize and lottery scams (FTC): reportfraud.ftc.gov
- IC3 for internet lottery and sweepstakes scams: complaint.ic3.gov



- U.S. Postal Inspection Service (mail scams):
1-800-372-8347
postalinspectors.uspis.gov
- National Elder Fraud Hotline:
[833-FRAUD-11 \(833-372-8311\)](https://833-FRAUD-11)
- FL Office of Inspector General:
legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
- U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General:
oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud
1-800-447-8477

