

Lottery/Sweepstakes Scams

Red flags:

- Most people who have fallen for a lottery or a sweepstakes scam have gone through financial hardship.
- Scammers will send bogus mail congratulating you that you won the lottery – the mail will sometimes even include a bogus check. Remember, you need to enter to win. If you don't remember entering a lottery or sweepstakes, it is a red flag.
- If you think your bank accounts or any of your information have been compromised, make sure to change your pins and to alert your bank right away.
- Do not trust your caller ID completely. Scammers will trick you to make it look like they are calling from a government agency. Verify the identity of the caller by asking the name of the company they claim to be from and do an Internet search.
- Legitimate lotteries/sweepstakes will not ask you to pay any kind of fees to collect your winnings.
- Do not pay taxes upfront.
- If you are asked to keep your win confidential, be suspicious.
- Do not participate in foreign lotteries, it is illegal for US citizens to enter foreign lotteries.

Reporting:

- If you suspect fraud, file a complaint, or get free information by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or visit [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).
- If you suspect you have been victim of a fraud, report by calling your local police. You can file a report with the Reno Police Department by calling 775-322-4900. You can also file a report by visiting [renospd.com/report](https://www.renospd.com/report).

50 Washington Street, Suite 300 // Reno, NV 89503 // 775-333-5499 // nevadafund.org