



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT of MARYLAND

REPORT FRAUD 833-FRAUD-11
(833) 372-8311

Email/Text

- Confirm all information with a phone call to an independently verified telephone number – not the number provided in the email or text message.
- Check email addresses each time to ensure that they haven't changed.
- Do not click links in emails or texts, even from friends, until you confirm that they are genuine.

Mail

- If you didn't enter the lottery, you didn't win the lottery.
- You will never have to pay taxes before receiving a sweepstakes or lottery winnings.

Payment

- No government, utility, law enforcement or taxing authority will accept gift cards (Apple, Target, etc.) as payment.
- Beware any payment that cannot be stopped or reversed, such as gift cards, wire transfers or money gram.
- Beware the "need for speed," whatever the asserted basis. Few substantial monetary transactions must be completed immediately. Urgency is used to override your common sense.



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RED FLAGS AND FRAUD ALERTS

Telephone Calls

- No bank will ask for your personal identification number (PIN) or account password over the phone.
- The Internal Revenue Service will not call you about a tax bill and will never require payment by phone.
- Nobody calling you should require that you provide your bank account number, PIN, social security number, Medicare number or even your name. They called you and should know who they called. (Sole exception: your medical provider or pharmacy may ask for your name and date of birth to ensure your privacy.)
- Your social security number cannot be "suspended," and you cannot be arrested because it was used for fraud unless YOU used it for fraud.

Internet

In a word, DRAMA is the red flag in internet relationships.

- Beware online relationship that moves too quickly.
- Beware online romantic relationships which require you to advance funds or financially assist the romantic suitor for medical, legal, business or other expenses.
- Remember, if you don't know a person in real life, you don't really know them!