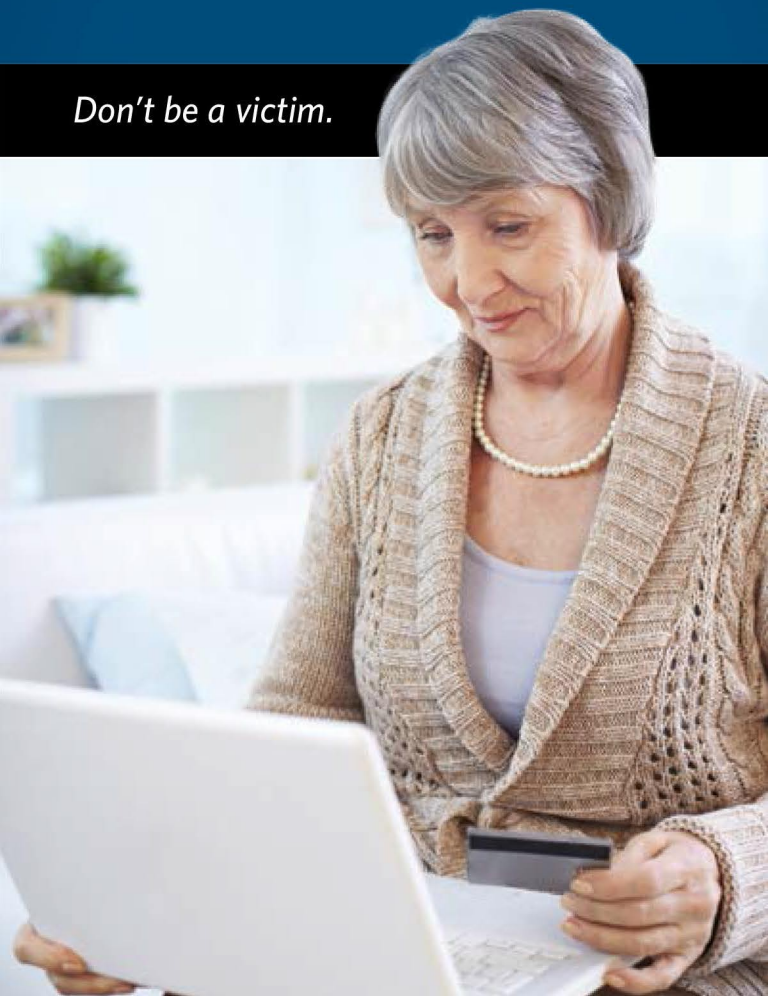




**ALERT!**

**Avoid Lottery Scams**

*Don't be a victim.*











## Letter/Fax Scams

Although far less common today, letter and fax-based lottery scams do exist. Never deposit a suspicious check you have received in the mail from a supposed lottery organization. The letter informs you of your winnings, instructs you to deposit the enclosed check, and wire a portion back to the sender as a fee before you can receive the balance. After wiring the fee, the victim is notified by their bank that the original check bounced and they are responsible for the entire amount.

### HELPFUL TIPS

Ignore all emails, letters or phone calls from unknown individuals or entities soliciting money from you. Also ignore requests for personal or financial information.

To report a suspicious email, letter, phone call, fax or website, or to report criminal activity involving Lottery products, please call the California Lottery Security & Law Enforcement Division at 1-800-LOTTERY (1-800-568-8379). If you are a victim of consumer fraud, you can also call the California State Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit at 1-800-952-5225.





## Always remember:

- The Lottery would **NEVER** charge you to get your prize.
- A Lottery official would **NEVER** personally contact you about winning a jackpot.
- A Lottery official would **NEVER** ask you for money up front.
- There's **NO WAY** to win a lottery prize if you didn't play a lottery game.

## What you should know about playing California Lottery games:

- Buy lottery tickets only from authorized California Lottery retailers.
- Always sign the back of your ticket immediately after buying it.
- Retailers are not authorized to charge commission or cashing fees to redeem your prize.
- The only lottery that is legally authorized to operate in California is the California Lottery.
- Assigning or transferring a winning lottery prize before a ticket is claimed is prohibited.



## Don't Become a Target

Various scam artists have been attempting to impersonate California Lottery, *Powerball*® and *Mega Millions*® staff to steal people's identities, credit card numbers, banking information and cash.

- Never give your credit card, social security, passport or bank account numbers to anyone promising lottery cash prizes.
- Be suspicious of "urgent" solicitations that suggest you will lose a prize if you don't act immediately.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

**A**sk questions  
**L**isten carefully  
**E**ducate yourself  
**R**efuse to be pressured  
**T**ell the authorities

## Need to report a scam?

If you think you've been the target of a lottery scam, notify your local law enforcement agency immediately and contact the California Lottery Security & Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to report the incident. You can also file reports with state and federal government agencies.

### Report Scams and Suspicious Activity

California Lottery Security &  
Law Enforcement Division  
916-822-8282  
reportfraud@calottery.com



### Suspicious Lottery Email, Phone, or Mail Campaigns

Federal Trade Commission  
1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357)  
[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

U.S. Postal Inspection Service  
1-800-372-8347  
[www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov)

### Internet Fraud Campaigns

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center  
[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

### Additional Information

California State Attorney General's Office  
1-800-952-5225  
[oag.ca.gov/consumers](http://oag.ca.gov/consumers)

700 North 10th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
1-800-LOTTERY (1-800-568-8379)  
[www.calottery.com](http://www.calottery.com)

