

# Jamaican Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams

Here's how the "Lottery" scams work:

1. You receive an unsolicited phone call, email, letter or fax from someone claiming to work for a government agency or representing a well-known organization or celebrity, notifying you that you've won a lot of money or a prize. The scammer gains your trust and explains that, in order to collect the winnings, you first must send a small sum of money to pay for processing fees, taxes or for any number of reasons. As instructed, you immediately wire the money, but never get your winnings. You are out the money you paid for fees and taxes.
2. You get an unsolicited check or money order and directions to deposit the money, and immediately wire a portion of it back to cover processing fees or taxes. Soon after, you learn that the check or money order was counterfeit, but you have already wired the money to cover the "taxes" and can't get it back. You are now on the hook to pay back your bank for any money you withdrew.

Many times, these types of scammers keep coming back and asking for more. Either they sent the insufficient check by mistake, or there is some other reason they produce for you to keep withdrawing funds and sending money their way.

Take measures to block the caller from your phone if your telephone service has this feature. If you don't know how to do it, contact a friend or family member who does.

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