

Publisher's Clearing House Scams

Publisher's Clearing House (PCH) is a legitimate sweepstakes company that has awarded millions in cash and prizes over the years. Unfortunately, criminals have found a way to cash in on their good name and trick unsuspecting people with the Publisher's Clearing House Scam.

While scammers may be convincing, here are five ways to know if an offer is from the REAL PCH or if it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam.

1. If you are required to wire or pay any amount of money in order to claim a prize, it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam. PCH sweepstakes are ALWAYS FREE to enter, and there is never a fee associated with winning.
2. If you are asked to load up a Green Dot MoneyPak or other money transfer card, in exchange for claiming your prize, it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam. PCH will NEVER ask you to pay to collect a prize.
3. If someone tries to contact you in advance regarding a prize delivery, it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam! That would ruin the surprise. For decades the Prize Patrol has captured the reactions of surprised winners and used them in their nationally-televised commercials.
4. If someone calls you on the telephone claiming to be from Publisher's Clearing House and says you have won, it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam. DO NOT give them any personal information! The Prize Patrol awards all their Big Prizes in person and would never call you to update any personal information in their files.
5. If someone claiming to be from Publishers Clearing House tries to send you a friend request on Facebook, it's a Publisher's Clearing House Scam. Even if they are using the name and photo of a PCH employee. PCH employees and official PCH Prize Patrol Fan pages will never private message you on Facebook.

Keep these five tips in mind to protect yourself from these scams. Remember, you cannot WIN if you do not ENTER.

Anyone who has concerns about whether something is legitimate or a scam or suspects they have been a victim of this scam or any other should contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office at 601-359-4230 or toll-free at 1-800-281-4418, if you are in the State of Mississippi.

Mississippi Attorney General's Office Consumer Protection Division 2013