

IMAGINE  
WHAT YOU CAN  
LOSE IN A

# FOREIGN LOTTERY SCAM

MORE THAN JUST THE ODDS  
ARE AGAINST YOU



## LET US HELP

Con artists target millions of people every year. When they succeed, they can seriously affect the lives of victims and their families. We at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service® are out to stop these criminals. You can help, by learning to recognize fraudulent offers before they cause damage. While a small percentage of mail is used for fraud, we consider one incident one too many.

Let us help protect you and your family from fraud.

If you've received a suspected fraud through the U.S. Mail™, or if the mail was used in a crime that began on the Internet, telephone, or in person, report it to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service®.



U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE®

[www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov](http://www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov)

1-877-876-2455



These fraud-prevention tips were compiled by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service®, the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Postal Service®, in partnership with AARP.

IF YOU HAVE TO SEND

# \$250

TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

## ODDS ARE

### IT'S A

# SCAM

DON'T RISK IT

IN A FOREIGN LOTTERY,  
MORE THAN JUST THE ODDS  
ARE AGAINST YOU.



# YOU'VE JUST WON A FOREIGN LOTTERY

Sounds too good to be true?  
You're right. Odds are it's a scam.

It happens like this...  
someone calls, emails, or  
notifies you by mail. All you  
need to do is mail or wire a small  
amount for taxes and fees to  
claim your prize.

Just hang up the phone or  
ignore the email.

Never wire or send money to  
anyone, anywhere, who says  
you've won a prize.

**NO LEGITIMATE LOTTERY  
SHOULD ASK YOU  
FOR MONEY  
TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE**

## IMPROVE YOUR ODDS

Older Americans are often targeted by scammers. Speak with your older loved ones about the consequences of foreign lottery scams. A few protective measures—taken with their consent—and a simple conversation about avoiding scams could be the winning ticket to preserving their financial well-being.

- Confirm frequent unknown domestic or international calls
- Monitor all accounts for unusual activity
- Identify unknown and recurring payments
- Discuss repeated wire-transfer patterns of checks that are made out to cash
- Notice stacks of sweepstake offers or prize notification letters around the home
- Talk about changes in living conditions—living beneath one's means, past-due bills, etc.

## IT'S SHREWD, NOT RUDE

- Act cautiously when dealing with offers that sound too good to be true
- Hang up if you suspect a scam
- Discard emails
- Avoid the pressures to act "right away"

## DON'T GAMBLE IT AWAY

### Report the crime

Contact local police and the Federal Trade Commission. If mail is used to contact the victim, or if the victim sent money to the scammer by mail, contact the U.S. Postal Inspection Service®.

### Notify each involved business

Includes wire-transfer services, banks, and shipping and phone companies. Alert all financial institutions, which often share intelligence with law enforcement.

### Manage online identities

Use passwords that are not easily identifiable, containing letters, numbers, and symbols.

### Contact the Social Security Administration

Protect your Social Security payments. These scams may put your benefits at risk.

### Close financial accounts

Close accounts involved in a fraud and explore security options with banks to protect assets.

### Check credit reports often

Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review regularly.

### Learn more about foreign lottery scams:

[www.aarp.org/protectyourfinances](http://www.aarp.org/protectyourfinances)  
[www.DeliveringTrust.com](http://www.DeliveringTrust.com)

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