

FRAUD ALERT!

International Lottery Schemes Blanket Area

The District Attorney's office has received several reports of mailings announcing "winners" in lotteries from all over the world. Included in the letter is usually a check "to pay for the applicable non-resident government service tax." They will ask you to deposit the check into your bank account; then to wire transfer the taxes, via Moneygram or Western Union, to your assigned "Tax Agent" – usually in Canada.

Although the check may appear to be from a legitimate American bank, it is actually a counterfeit check. If you wire transfer the funds to your "tax agent", you will be on the hook for the entire amount you wired.

Sending international lottery material through the mail or internet is prohibited by federal law.

International lottery schemes have cost Californians millions of dollars. If you receive a letter, e-mail, or phone call that claims you've won an international lottery, **IT IS A SCAM!** Do **NOT** send any money or verify any personal financial information, such as bank or credit card account numbers. Hang up, delete the e-mail, or throw the mailing away!



**For assistance call the
DA's Elder Fraud Line:
(209) 468-2488**

*CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the
community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation*