

Rules to Remember

Jamaican Lottery Scam

- You receive a telephone call or e-mail indicating that you are the winner of the Jamaican Lottery.
- In order to claim your lottery winnings the foreign taxes for the winnings must be paid in advance.
- You will be instructed to provide your bank account or credit card information for the payment of the taxes.
- You will be asked for your social security number to verify you are in fact the winner.

How to Avoid Being a Victim

- There is no such thing as a Jamaican Lottery.
- If you did not enter a lottery, you can't win one.
- Foreign lotteries are illegal in the United States.
- It is illegal for an agency to require a winner of a prize to pay in order to receive their compensation.
- Never provide your banking or personal information to anyone.

- If it's too good to be true it probably isn't.
- Keep all doors locked at all times, even if outside gardening.
- Carry a cordless phone with you, even outside so you can call the police.
- If someone comes to your house or approaches you asking for help don't let them inside, tell them you will call the police for them.
- Don't let anyone inside your house to do work that you haven't called.
- If you or someone "finds" money ALWAYS call the police.

MCHENRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
POLICE
2200 N. SEMINARY AVENUE
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS 60098

NON-EMERGENCY 815-338-2144
EMERGENCY 911

Financial Exploitation Crimes Against the Elderly



How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

Common Scams

Daytime Diversionary Burglary

- One or two men knock on your door and say they are doing work in the area, or are from a local utility company. They will try to convince you to accompany them into your backyard or show them your property line.
- They may explain that they need to enter the basement to test your water pressure and company policy requires them to be escorted.
- Once outside or distracted in an isolated area of your residence, a third accomplice enters your residence and removes jewelry, cash, and other items of value.

How to Avoid Being a Victim

- Legitimate utility companies will wear a uniform and have official identification. Ask to examine their I.D.
- Don't let them into your house and don't let them lure you out of yours.
- If in doubt, ask them to wait outside your locked door while you call their company or police to verify who they are.
- An imposter won't hang around long enough to find out the answer.

Home Improvement Scams

- One or two men in a truck stop and offer to seal your driveway, trim your trees, or do some other repairs at an unusually low price.
- Many times they will say they were in the area or had extra materials left over and therefore, can do your job very cheaply and cheapest if paid in cash.
- The job is often poorly done with inferior materials used.
- When finished, the final price is frequently much higher than the original estimate and if you complain they will get loud and intimidating.
- If you pay in cash, they now know you have cash in the house and they saw where in the house you went to get it.

How to Avoid Being a Victim

- Never keep large sums of cash in your house.
- If someone is offering a deal too good to be true, it probably isn't.
- Don't employ or accept services from anyone who knocks on your door or solicits you.
- Rely on local companies with a reputation in your community.

Pigeon Drop Scam

- You are approached by someone who claims to have found a large amount of money.
- A second person (an accomplice of the first) will get involved in the conversation and offer that their boss works nearby and will know what to do with the money.
- The second person will enter a building and return after talking to her boss and claim that her boss said they could keep the money and split it three ways but they will have to put up "good faith" money of their own in case a later claim is made.
- You will be taken to your bank and instructed to withdraw a large sum of money which is turned over to the second person.
- The second person will instruct you to enter the building to get your share of the money from her boss. Upon entering the building, you can't find this person and when you go back outside the two offenders are gone.

How to Avoid Being a Victim

- Be aware of someone who has told you they have found money and want to share it.
- Never let anyone hold your money.
- The old adage that you can't get something for nothing is true with these types of scams.
- Remember, if it's too good to be true it probably isn't.