



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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State Warns Montanans of Lottery Scam

(HELENA) – The Montana Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Office has seen an increase in the number of complaints regarding a Lottery scam.

Potential Lottery scam victims are receiving calls telling them that they have won a Mega Millions prize and to send in money to collect the prize and to cover the claim fee. Lottery officials remind Montanans that anytime you are asked to pay a fee to get Lottery winnings, it is a fraudulent practice. Winners are never charged a fee to claim a Lottery prize. In addition, unless you specifically entered a promotional opportunity from the Montana Lottery, you will never be contacted directly to be informed that you have won any Montana Lottery game.

"Phone numbers of potential victims are harvested by spyware and viruses and other tools," said Attorney General Tim Fox. "Sometimes, scammers get phone numbers through various trade journals, business directories, and anywhere your name appears on the internet, such as in chat rooms. Remember, never provide personal identity information over the phone to a caller you don't know."

Montana Lottery Director Angela Wong reminds players, "To have a chance to win the Lottery, you must purchase at ticket." Tickets can be purchased and checked at Lottery retailers across Montana or at Lottery headquarters located at 2525 North Montana Avenue in Helena. To claim prizes, winners fill out a claim form, which is then verified by Lottery officials.

If you receive a letter, email, or phone call informing you that you have won the Montana Lottery, you are advised to report it to the Montana Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Office at:

E-Mail: contactocp@mt.gov
Phone Number: 1-800-481-6896 or 406-444-4500
Mail: OCP
PO Box 200151
Helena, MT 59620

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