10 Financial Scams Targeting You

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Financial Education and Outreach

in no particular order…

1) Job and Business Opportunity Scams

When Hunting for a Job or Business

- ✓ **Protect your SSN** and be cautious paying for a job/service
- ✓ **Research** the Company
  Better Business Bureau, Secretary of State
- ✓ **Verify Business Opportunity** Is **Registered**
  Department of Financial Institutions dfi.wa.gov
- ✓ **Review** Business Opportunity **Disclosure**
  Interview other owners

2) Foreclosure Rescue Scams

Promise for foreclosure relief.
No delivery.

Warning Signs of Foreclosure Scam

- Operates **out of state, not licensed** with **DFI**
- **Money** is **required upfront**
- Tells you **NOT to contact your lender**
- **Requires** direct access to your **bank account**

Protect Your Home

- ✓**Don't sign papers** you don't understand
- ✓Check with your **lawyer, mortgage company, or certified HUD counselor**
- ✓**Check** to see if there are **any complaints** Check with DFI, visit www.dfi.wa.gov
- ✓**Verify** company **license** with DFI

3) Timeshare Resell Scams

Bogus resale companies taking money from timeshare owners/sellers

If You Do Sell A Timeshare…

- ✓Research **complaints against the company**
  Check with the BBB, Attorney General's Office
- ✓Ask for **references** and do your **research**
- ✓**Avoid wire transfers / cashiers checks**

Stop Telemarketers

www.donotcall.gov

4) Investment Scams

Common Investment Scams

1. Oil and Gas Schemes
2. Affinity Fraud
3. Green Schemes
4. Unregistered Sales of Securities
5. Free Lunch Seminars

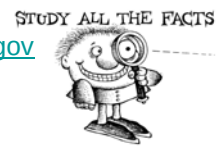
Research the Investment

1. Read the **prospectus** carefully

2. Verify with DFI the investment is **registered**

3. Ask DFI if the investment has any **complaints**

More information
www.dfi.wa.gov or www.sec.gov



Background Check of the Seller

1. Call DFI to Research the seller
   1.877.RING DFI (746-4334)

   1. Are they registered to do business?
   2. Ask for the disciplinary record
   3. Have any complaints have been received?
   4. Are they under active investigation?

2. Also search FINRA's broker check
www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/index.htm

INTERNATIONAL LOTTO COMMISSION

CALLE FARO, 14
28003 MADRID, SPAIN
TEL: 00-11-34-653-347-660

FROM THE DESK OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
REFERENCE NUMBER: ES / 0181726263026-01
BATCH NUMBER: PL- 013284-8127437

ATTN NAME REMOVED

RE: AWARD NOTIFICATION FINAL NOTICE

This is to inform you of the release of the Beginning of Year International Lotto Promotion Program. La primitiva lottery held on the 31st January 2006, this result was initially delayed due to mix up of numbers and addresses, the results were finally released on the 6th February 2006, and your name attached to Ticket number: 165-049-751-720-351 with Serial number: 1330-21, which drew the Lucky numbers: 25-65-64-75-35-32, which consequently won the lottery in the first category of the year 2006. You are therefore approved for a lump sum payout of € 415,850.00 (FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY EUROS ONLY) in cash accredited to file reference number: ES/ 0181726263026-01, this is from a total cash prize of € 7,901,150.00 (SEVEN MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND ONE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY EUROS ONLY) Shared among the nineteen international winners in this category. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Your fund is now deposited in a security company with your prize money insured in your name. Due to mix up of some numbers and names, we ask that you keep this award from public notice until your claim has been processed and money remitted to your account as this is part of our security protocol to avoid double claiming or unwarranted taking advantage of this program by participants as it has happened in the past. All participants were selected through a computer ballot systems / shopping ticket-fills and travelling ticket-fills drawn from 25,000 Company names and individual names from Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, America, Africa and North America as part of our annual-international promotional programs. We hope your lucky name will draw a bigger cash prize in the next high stake promotion agenda of EURO 21,300,000.00 (TWENTY-ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND)

To begin your lottery claim, please contact your claim agent, MR. CARLOS FERNANDEZ, foreign operations manager, payment and release order department, SANTALUCIA SECURITY COMPANY S.A on Tel: 00 11 34 652 315 371 & Fax: 00 11 34 625 931 051 for registration and processing of your winning prize money to designated account of your choice. Complete the attached payment processing form and return by fax to your claim agent. Remember, all prize money must be claimed not later than 31st March 2006. After this date, this fund will be returned to the MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA Y HACIENDA as unclaimed fund.

NOTE: In order to avoid unnecessary delay and complication, please remember to quote your reference and batch numbers in every correspondence with your agent or us. Furthermore, should there be any change of your address, do inform your claim agent as soon as possible. Congratulation once again from all members of our staff and thank you for being part of our International promotion program. We wish you continued good fortunes.

Yours Sincerely,

APROVED

DON JUAN PALMA GONZALEZ
(DIRECTOR DE LA LOTTERIA)

SECURITY CODEX-INFORMATIONS (STRICTLY FOR WINNER ONLY) Nº 0001760012337S

5) Advance Fee Scams

Paying an upfront fee for a **service**, **product**, or **prize** you will never receive.

Avoid Advance Fee Fraud

✓ Do your **research** (internet, BBB, etc.)

✓ Be wary of **unsolicited** calls, emails, offers, prizes

✓ **Do not reply** to **suspicious emails** or **phone calls**

✓ **Avoid wire transfers / cashiers checks**

Stop Junk Mail

www.optoutprescreen.com

6) Identity Theft

Identity Theft – Warning Signs

- **Bills** for credit you didn't open
- **Fraudulent charges** on your **account**
- **Unauthorized credit inquiry** on **credit report**
- Account statements don't show up

Protect Your Accounts

✓ **Monitor** your **bank accounts** 1 x week

✓ **Cross cut shred** your documents

✓ Keep an eye on your credit/debit cards

✓ Use **anti-virus** software

✓ **Lock your WIFI** network

Monitor Your Credit Report

www.annualcreditreport.com

7) Debt Relief Scams

False promises to lower rates, eliminate debt, raise credit score

Debt Relief - Protect Yourself

✓ **Shop around** for services

✓ **Ask** about **fees**

✓ **Work** with a **certified credit counselor**
Find a counselor: www.nfcc.org

8) Social Network Scams

facebook

LinkedIn

twitter

5 Facebook Scams

1. **"I need help overseas" wire money**

2. **Phishing links** posted to wall
   Beware of giveaways (gift cards, etc)

3. **Subscription** scams
   "Your cute" Dating services

4. Fake Facebook groups

5. Likejacking

Likejacking

9) Charity Fraud

Protect Charity Donations

✓ Ask for the charity's name, address, & phone
Research charity at www.charitynavigator.org

✓ **Verify** the **charity** is **registered** with the Secretary of State Office. 1-800-332-GIVE

✓**Ask** how much of your **contribution** will go to **fundraising costs**.

✓**Check** the **history** of the organization with the Secretary of State Office.

10) Unlicensed Internet Lenders

Lenders not licensed to do business and not conforming to state law.

Internet - Protect Yourself

✓ **Verify license** of **internet lender** with DFI

✓ **Review** the **law** regarding loan limits
DFI for more information www.dfi.wa.gov

✓ Be skeptical of **unsolicited** loan offers

✓ **Subscribe** to **DFI's consumer alerts**
www.dfi.wa.gov/consumers/alerts.htm

Questions?

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