

GREENWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

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International Lottery Scams

The Greenwich Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division would like to alert the residents of lottery scams, especially high-stake foreign lotteries taking advantage of unsuspecting victims.

Basically, scam operators, often based in Canada are using the telephone and direct mail not only to entice U.S. consumers to buy chances in a high-stake foreign lottery but also to notify **"Winners."**

The scam artists either use the victim's bank account numbers to make unauthorized withdrawals or credit card numbers to run up additional charges.

A more common variation occurs when the victim is notified of his or her winnings, but told that **"fees"** had to be sent in order to collect the prize, using wire services such as Western Union.

This lottery solicitation violates Federal and Connecticut law, which prohibits the cross-border sale or purchase of lottery tickets by phone or mail.

If you receive what looks like lottery material from a foreign country, give it to your local postmaster and report any telemarketing fraud to the Attorney General's office, Telephone number: 860-808-5318.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Criminal Investigations Division at 203-622-8054.