



# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS CONSUMERS AGAINST FOREIGN LOTTERIES**

**Las Vegas, NV**—The Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection today issued a consumer advisory regarding foreign lotteries. This advisory is part of the ongoing effort to protect consumers through education.

Every day millions of foreign lottery mailings are sent to consumers throughout the United States. They include lottery promotions originating from Canada or from as far away as Australia and Europe. Excited by the prospect of instant wealth, consumers are responding to these solicitations to the tune of \$120 million a year, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. With the ability to send free email messages from anywhere in the world, an increasing number of consumers are being enticed to buy chances in high stakes foreign lotteries.

While many legitimate foreign lotteries do exist, entries are not typically solicited in other countries. Most promotions for foreign lotteries received by consumers in the United States are, in fact, nothing more than a tool used by con-artists to deceive people. Often consumers are told they must send money immediately for processing fees or taxes. Consumers are also asked to provide their credit card or bank account numbers, only to later learn that unauthorized withdrawals have been made from their bank accounts or additional charges have been placed on their credit cards.

In other instances, the solicitation includes an authentic looking check and informs the consumer to deposit the check and send payment for the processing fees or taxes from the consumer's own bank account. After the consumer deposits the check and sends their own check for payment, the consumer learns that the check sent with the solicitation is counterfeit.

The Attorney General's office warns consumers who are considering responding to a foreign lottery to be aware of the following:

- There are no secret systems for winning foreign lotteries. Your chances of winning more than the cost of your tickets are slim to none.
- If you purchase one foreign lottery ticket, expect many more bogus offers for lottery or investment "opportunities." Your name will likely be placed on "sucker lists" that fraudulent telemarketers buy and sell.
- Scam artists often ask for your credit card and bank account numbers. Do not relinquish this information.
- The safest thing to do if you receive a solicitation for a foreign lottery promotion is to ignore it!

Consumers who receive a foreign lottery solicitation are encouraged to send it to their Postmaster; e-mails may be sent to the Federal Trade Commission at [uce@ftc.gov](mailto:uce@ftc.gov). To file a complaint or get free information about this and other consumer protection issues, go to [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call toll-free 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY 1-866-653-4261.

For other valuable consumer protection information, please visit the Attorney General's office website at [www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm](http://www.ag.state.nv.us/divisions/bcp.htm).

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