



# Fraud Alert!

## Watch Out for Foreign Lottery Mailing Scams!

Foreign lotteries have been around for years and they've always been illegal. However, there has been a flood of them recently and we want to make sure you don't fall victim to these scams.

**Please carefully read the tips below so you know how to identify a foreign lottery scam before you become a victim!**

1. **Many** of the foreign lottery scams originate out of Canada, but they appear to be authentic by using names and addresses of legitimate American offices, organizations or companies not involved in the scams.
2. **Some** of the mailings include a counterfeit check for a large amount to cover "taxes and fees" with instructions to cash the legitimate-looking check. Instead, it is a counterfeit check of a legitimate unsuspecting company. When the check doesn't clear, the money comes out of your bank account.



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3. **Mountain States Better Business Bureau** advises anyone receiving a foreign lottery offer not to respond in any way. Participating in a foreign lottery is illegal for U.S. citizens. Don't let yourself get trapped into sending thousands of dollars!

**If you receive a foreign lottery mailing, you can:**

- **Report** it to the Mountain States Better Business Bureau in the area it was mailed from.
- **Turn** the document over to the postal inspector at your local post office.
- **Call** and report it to the Canadian crime-fighting organization, Phonebusters, at 888-495-8501.
- **Call** the Mountain States Better Business Bureau at (970) 686-7722 for more information about foreign lottery scams

**Contact your local police agency if you think you are a victim of a crime. To contact the Weld County District Attorney's Office, call (970) 356-4010 ext. 4722.**

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