

“Congratulations! You've Won!”

Everyone loves to win, but this type of phone call could end up costing you money. The scams vary, but many of them share one theme...you have to send money before you receive your “prize.”

Remember these tips:

The recipient of a prize from a legitimate company is **NEVER** required to pay shipping, handling, or other advanced fees. Taxes are either deducted in advance from cash winnings, or the value of a prize is declared on your annual tax return.

Legitimate contest winners are notified by **CERTIFIED MAIL**, not by phone, e-mail, or bulk mail.

Buying additional magazines, vitamins, or other products **WILL NOT** increase your chances of winning a prize.

There are no legitimate contests that require money or product purchases for entry into the next (higher) level of prizes.

Warning Signs !

The caller tells you the offer is good “today only.”

The caller asks for your credit card number, bank account information, or Social Security number **EVEN IF** you are told that the information is used to deposit cash winnings into your account, or to verify a prize or gift.

The caller directs you to send or wire money, contracts, etc. through a carrier other than the U.S. Postal Service, or to a “P.O. Box.”

The caller declines to send you written information regarding the offer, or references. (Remember, legitimate companies will not mind you “checking them out,” and will give you the time to do that!)

The caller wants you to pay a fee or tax for a prize or gift. **It is illegal to require any kind of advanced fee**, and taxes are not collected in this manner.

Do not fall for a call or e-mail that comes from outside of the United States. They are usually scams!

Tips and Tip-Offs To Avoid The Rip-Offs

TELEPHONE SCAMS



Arvada Police non-emergency
(720) 898-6900

Jefferson County District Attorney
Consumer Fraud Division
(303) 271-6931

Adams County District Attorney
Consumer Fraud Division
(303) 659-7720

Colorado Attorney General
Consumer Fraud Unit
(303) 866-5189

DIALING FOR DOLLARS

Soliciting by telephone enables businesses to reach a large number of consumers at a relatively low cost. Although some legitimate businesses use the phone to market their products, many con artists have found this to be a goldmine for their scams and schemes.

Dishonest telemarketers are aggressive, persuasive and smart when trying to separate you from your money. Don't assume that you can easily differentiate between an honest company and a scam. The con artists are very good at what they do, and they steal billions of dollars every year.

The Arvada Police Department wants to keep you from becoming the next victim. Awareness is the key to keeping your money where it belongs...with you.



These are some examples of how prizes are described by con artists and what the prize actually is:

- A “2006 Ford Explorer” is actually a toy or model of the vehicle.
- A “home entertainment system” is a cheap radio, a palm-sized keyboard or toy tambourine.
- A “boat and motor” is a toy or a cheap raft with a wind-up motor.
- A “computer” is actually a cheap calculator.

In each case, the “shipping and handling fees” exceed the cost of the “prize”-- which is exactly how the con artists make their money!

These callers sound sincere, seem honest and appear to be genuinely happy that you have won something. Keep in mind that con artists will lie to you, they will misrepresent prizes, and they will pressure you into making an immediate decision...before you have time to think it through.

Don't be fooled by their scams. Their livelihood depends on convincing you to send money or provide bank or credit card information.

If you think you have been a victim of a con artist, you are not alone. Report the incident to your local police, district attorney's office or the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Reporting the problem may keep someone else from becoming the next victim.



