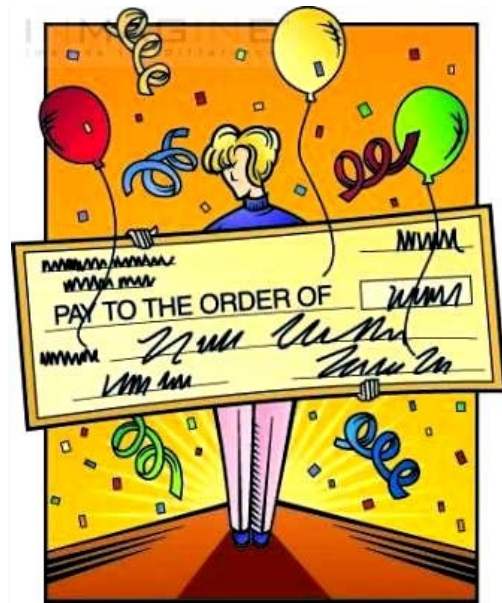


## It's your lucky day! You just won a foreign lottery!

The letter says so. And the cashier's check to cover the taxes and fees is included. All you have to do to get your winnings is deposit the check and wire the money to the sender to pay the taxes and fees. You're guaranteed that when they get your payment, you'll get your prize. There's just one catch: this is a scam. The check is no good, even though it appears to be a legitimate cashier's check. Scam operators — often based in Canada — are using the telephone, email and direct mail to entice U.S. consumers to give them their personal information and send them money for fees or taxes. These lottery solicitations violate U.S. 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.

### There are several ways to recognise a fake lottery letter:

- Unless you have bought a ticket, you CANNOT have won a prize. There are no such things as "email" draws or any other lottery where "no tickets were sold".
- The scammer will ask you to pay a fee before you can receive your prize. It is illegal for a real lottery to charge any sort of fee. It doesn't matter what they say this fee is for (courier charges, bank charges — these are all made up by the scammer to get money out of you). All real lotteries subtracts any fee and tax from the prize. They never ask you to pay it in advance.
- Scam lottery emails will nearly always come from free email accounts such as Yahoo, Hotmail, MSN, etc, and no real business will use a free email account.



### If you receive a "prize notification" from a suspicious lottery:

- don't respond to the emails
- don't pay any money in advance to collect a prize
- don't reveal your full identity
- don't reveal your bank account number or credit card details