



## **SCAM ALERT!**

Person poses as a Gambling Commission employee asking you to send money to claim a prize....

**Would you pay \$350 to claim a million dollar prize? How about \$100 or \$50? NEVER pay any amount of money to claim a prize!**

We received several complaints from people who were asked to pay money to claim a prize. This is a SCAM!

Here's one story:

A New York resident called our agency to verify if a "Jerry Edwards" worked for us. He allegedly told her she won a \$2.5 million sweepstakes, but she needed an IRS I.D. number which costs \$350. He told her he worked for the Washington State Gambling Commission and was hired to help her claim her prize.

**Does this sound suspicious? It sure does! So, why does it work?**

Well, here's the rest of the story:

- ✓ This New York resident had been scammed before...**twice!**
- ✓ She is a target and her name is on a *Scam List*.
- ✓ A "Jerry Edwards" (or whoever he is) can buy these *Scam Lists* to continue preying on vulnerable people like this New York resident.
- ✓ There are many companies and people who commit this type of fraud.

Here are a few things to watch out for:

- ✓ Are you asked to pay money to claim a prize?
- ✓ Did the person claim to be from a government office? An attorney hired to help you? The Court system? A sweepstakes company?

**NEVER pay any money, for any reason, to claim a prize.**

Remember, if you are in doubt or suspicious, call us!

Our agency in partnership with the Attorney General's Office follows up on these complaints.

Washington State Attorney General's Office, Consumer Fraud Division:

(206) 464-6684; or in Washington State only: (800) 551-4636

Website: [www.atg.wa.gov/FileAComplaint.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/FileAComplaint.aspx)

Washington State Gambling Commission, Communications & Legal Division:

(360) 486-3466; or in Washington State only: (800) 345-2529, ext. 3466

Website: [www.wsgc.wa.gov/rav/violation.asp](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov/rav/violation.asp)