

DON'T PAY TO PLAY!!!
WARNING FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY STAN GARNETT

Alarming numbers of Boulder County citizens are reporting that they have fallen victim to fraudulent lottery scams - and District Attorney Stan Garnett's Consumer Protection Unit is warning the public that consumers should NEVER send or wire any money to receive supposed winnings.

The perpetrators of these scams use a variety of methods to convince consumers that they should pay taxes or service charges in advance of receiving their millions. But District Attorney Stan Garnett reminds people that they should NEVER pay to receive anything they have won. In addition, few people know that federal law makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to participate in foreign lotteries.

“The law was passed to protect us from ourselves. While lottery winnings are tempting, the reality is that these so-called lottery winnings don't exist. Con artists are preying on vulnerable citizens in alarming numbers.”

- District Attorney Stan Garnett

The Consumer Protection Division of the District Attorney's Office has reported people sending money to Nigeria, Spain, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Australia, etc. – paying the supposed “taxes” or “fees” on your winnings. Some of the losses have reached a quarter of a million dollars – robbing people of their life savings.

If you have questions about a supposed lottery win, or a check you have received to pay the taxes on those “winnings,” call the Consumer Protection Division before sending any money – 303-441-3700.

District Attorney Garnett also encourages Boulder County to look out for their vulnerable relatives and neighbors – noting whether they have huge volumes of mail in their homes, or are talking about wiring money in advance of lottery winnings. Notify the Consumer Protection Division and they will call or visit anyone to educate them regarding the dangers of these scams.