



**County of San Bernardino
Department of Aging and Adult Services
(DAAS)**

SCAM ALERT

Foreign Lottery Scam

Target: All Seniors

Seniors are cautioned to be wary of an overseas lottery scam that begins with someone notifying you that you are the winner of a foreign lottery, even though you may not have purchased a ticket for this lottery. Do not respond! The scam artist is attempting to get either your personal information, your money, or both.

Lottery scams continue to be a danger to seniors!

The United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) states that it is a violation of federal law for you to play foreign lotteries through the mail or over the telephone.

The FTC recommends that if you receive:

- Lottery material in the mail: Return it to your postmaster.
- A telephone call claiming you have won a foreign lottery: Just hang up.
- An email claiming that you are a winner: Delete it.

The United States Postal Inspection Service states that people who respond to these scams lose approximately \$120 million dollars per year.

Some tell-tale signs of a scam include:

- > Email notification: Legitimate lotteries do not notify winners.
- > You did not purchase a ticket.
- > They advise you not to tell anyone you have won.
- > Grammatical errors in the email.
- > You are told you won based on your email address or telephone number.
- > You are asked to pay to collect your winnings.
- > You are asked for your back account information, so that the winnings may be transferred.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS)
at 877-565-2020, or your local police department.**