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**Lottery Scam, what it is and how to avoid it?**

**By Nowshade kabir**

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Internet scams and frauds are on the rise! The quantity of scam emails with various fraud schemes any email account receives today is simply overwhelming! There is this infamous Nigerian 419 scam, which is by far the most widely circulated one. I wrote about it in one of our ezine articles not long ago. You can read about it here! And there are many other scams like Lottery, Letter of Credit, money transfer, black money conversion, real estate, fraudulent order and the list goes on and on.

Looking at my daily doze of scam letters, looks like, the lottery scam seems to be gaining popularity among the con artists. This scam is similar to other forward fee schemes, where the goal of the con artist is to persuade an unsuspected victim to send an advance payment for some dubious offers that the swindlers never plan to fulfill.

**Email Lottery Scam**

The subject of the emails from an unknown source to you will, probably show, something similar to, "Congratulation! You have own a lottery". With minor variations the text in most of these letters is virtually identical.

The letter, usually, claims to be issued by a Lottery Company based in some countries like The Netherlands, Switzerland, England, Canada or the USA.

And then it says that you are one of many people randomly chosen from all over the world to participate in a lottery of a very large sum. You along with some others have won this lottery. You will

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be asked to contact them immediately to claim your prize money. Most certainly, the letter will also warn you to keep this as a secret and will specify that the offer has a time limit.

If you contact them after receiving this letter; there are number of variation how the thugs will try to swindle you. They are quite imaginative and sometimes very innovative in their endeavors.

In general the idea is - you have to pay a fee before the lottery company can release the amount to you. The pretexts are, usually, an investigation company has to make sure that you are the right person who won the lottery, as a foreigner you have to pay a tax

before you can get your prize and there is a processing and handling fee that has to be paid before hand, etc.

Don't think that these dubious offers are only sent by emails. People received them by regular mails, by direct phone calls and even by SMS.

### Phone Call Lottery Scam

One fine morning you may receive a call from a person, claiming to be a lawyer from a prestigious law firm, and will tell you that you have won a foreign lottery; that a processing fee is due before the prize money can be released to you. The seniors are most likely to be the victims of these telemarketers. If you are located in the USA, most likely, the person will introduce himself as a Canadian lawyer and will inform you as if you have won a Canadian Provincial Lottery.

### Lottery Scam by SMS

You may even receive a SMS message advising that you have won a foreign lottery. You will be instructed to log onto a website and enter a login and password, which would be provided to you in the message. The site will have the same look and feel of a legitimate lottery site, but in fact, it is a copy site created by the scammers. The URL address will have a very minor, virtually, unnoticeable difference. Once you log in and see for yourself that you have really own the lottery, you will be asked to forward a gaming tax of US \$100 to US \$500 before you claim your prize.

How to identify these scams and avoid being conned?

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The number one motto that you should follow is - if it is too good to be true, then probably, it is indeed too good to be true! There is no way you can win a lottery, in what you have never participated!

The followings are the signs of probable scam offers, you will be better off if you avoid them scrupulously:

Any offer, where you have to send cash upfront to redeem you prize.

Any offer of a substantial percentage of a large sum of money to be transferred into your account, in return for your "discretion" or "confidentiality";

Requests for signed and stamped, blank letterhead or invoices, or for bank account information;

Requests for payment in advance of transfer taxes or other fees;

Statements that your name was provided to the soliciting party either by someone you do not know or by "a very reliable

contact;"

Unsolicited calls asking if you would like to be in a "Lottery pool";

Mail notifying you that you have already won a substantial sum of money.

Nowshade Kabir is the founder, primary developer and present CEO of Rusbiz.com. He has Ph. D. degree in Information Technology. Dr. Kabir has over 12 years of experience in International Trade and has worked as an advisor to several government projects. You can contact him at <mailto:nowshade@rusbiz.com>, <http://www.rusbiz.com>

## **Winning Lotto – 10 Things You Absolutely Must Know Before You Buy Another Lottery Ticket**

**By Terry Fisher**

1. There IS an incredibly simple way to lower Lottery Odds.
2. The odds in, for example, a 6–49 lottery are 1–in–13,983,816.
3. Play all 49 lottery numbers - and you are GUARANTEED to have one ball correct. And it only requires 9 games. Even the 59–ball New York Lottery only requires 10 games.
4. Win just one ball guaranteed correct, your Lottery Odds have now fallen from 1–in–13,983,816 to 1–in–1,712,304 - A reduction of over TWELVE Million! And all this with a technique that takes 5 minutes and costs under \$10.
5. The most probable lottery result has three odd lottery numbers and three even lottery numbers

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(33.3% of the 13,983,816 combinations are of this type)

6. A lottery result with no consecutive numbers occurs just over 1–week–in–2 on average (50.5% of the 13,983,816 combinations are of this type)

7. Your lottery results can be boosted using games with three high lottery numbers and three low lottery numbers (33.3% of the combinations are of this type)

8. The most probable lottery result will have no lottery numbers from the previous week (43.6% of the 13,983,816 combinations) or only two lottery numbers from the previous week (41.3% of the 13,983,816 combinations)

9. Constructing your games using these rules - and using all the numbers in your lottery - is the simplest, easiest, quickest way to improve your lottery results.

10. A 49–ball lottery has been used as an example - but the concept applies to all lotteries, with just slight changes in the percentages. In the Lottery, it's true that anything is possible - but some things are more probable than others!

This lottery article was submitted by Terry Fisher, CEO of LottoMasta International, and is an extract from his book "Winning Lotto Secrets." His website <http://www.lottery-books.com> provides an analysis of the best lottery books on the 'net, ranked from 1 to 10.

Winning Lotto – 10 Things You Absolutely Must Know Before You Buy Another Lottery Ticket

5 Top Tips To Win More With Any Lottery

A Winning Lottery Number Selection Strategy

Play Euro Millions or the UK Lotto in a Syndicate

The History Of Lottery

How to Buy a Car Without Getting Ripped Off!

Competition Commando

Scams Exposed

How to keep up the SPICE in your Love Life.

Tattoo Secrets

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