

News Release –

Pennsylvania State Police Troop K, Media barracks



Pennsylvania State Police, Community Services Unit: 484-840-1000

SCAMS

The Pennsylvania State Police continually investigate acts of telemarketing fraud. These scams have involved the victims being told they have 'won' sweepstakes, lotteries and other prizes. The victims are told to send a fee, pay taxes or purchase another item in order to claim their winnings.

There are warning signs. If you hear these, or similar, 'lines' from a telephone salesperson, just hang up the phone:

"You must act now or the offer expires."

"You've won, but you have to pay for shipping and handling."

"You must send/deposit money or give a credit card number first."

"You don't have to check this company out." OR "You don't want to tell your family/friends about this offer."

Here are some tips to avoid telemarketing scams:

- If you have not entered the sweepstakes, you cannot win.
- Don't pay for a FREE prize. If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he/she is violating federal law.
- Never give out personal information to unfamiliar persons or unknown companies.
- Always take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won't pressure you to make a snap decision.

If you have been a victim, please call the police. Never be too embarrassed to report that you've been victimized or swindled.