

Phone and Lottery Scams

The Lower Salford Township Police Department has been receiving an alarming number of complaints regarding Phone and Lottery Scams. These scams can be delivered many different ways. Some scams are received by telephone, some are delivered through the postal service and some are delivered electronically through the Internet. The majority of these types of scams are ignored by the recipient, however there are unfortunate victims in these cases.

The Lower Salford Township Police Department is asking anyone who receives unexpected checks in the mail from unknown senders to please ignore them. You should also be extremely suspicious if you are being told you won a lottery that you never entered. Many of these lottery scams ask you to provide them with a check or money order to cover taxes or processing fees. Many times the victim will be instructed to send the money orders through Western Union. We are also advising you to not provide any businesses with your personal information over the phone. Another similar scam occurs when an e-mail is received advising you a family member has been arrested in another country. The person sending the e-mail requests you send money on the family member's behalf so they can post bail. Please confirm these types of events prior to sending any money outside of the country.

If you have been or believe you have been a recipient of any of these forms of scams and you have not lost any money because of it, you are encouraged to file a report with the Federal Trade Commission. You can file an online complaint at

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/filing-a-report.html>.

If you are a victim of a scam and you have suffered a monetary loss, you are encouraged to report the incident the same way in addition to reporting it to the Lower Salford Township Police Department.