



SCAM ALERT!

It starts something like this.....

Hi, my name is Tom Anderson. I work for the Gaming Commission and you've won a \$2.5 million prize!

All you need to do is send me \$350...

This is a SCAM - Never pay money to claim a prize!

At times, we receive calls from people who are asked to pay money to claim a prize. Here's one story:

A New York resident called us to verify if a *Tom Anderson* worked for us. *Mr. Anderson* told her he worked for us and she had won a \$2.5 million sweepstakes, but she needed an IRS I.D. number which costs \$350. He told her he worked for the Washington Gambling Commission and was hired to help her claim her prize.

Does this sound suspicious? It sure does!

So, why does it work? Everyone wants to win a prize; however, if it sounds too good to be true, it's probably not true and someone is trying to take your money.

Here's the rest of the story:

- ✓ There are lots of companies and people who commit this type of fraud.
- ✓ This New York resident had been scammed before...**twice!**
- ✓ She is a target and her name is on a Scam List.
- ✓ Scam artists, like *Tom Anderson*, buy Scam Lists to continue preying on vulnerable people like this New York resident.

Here are a few clues someone is trying to scam you:

- ✓ Are you asked to pay money to claim a prize?
- ✓ Did the person claim to be from a government office? An attorney hired to help you? The Court system? A sweepstakes company?

If you receive a call like this, give us a call at (360) 486-3440, before you do anything. To learn more about sweepstakes scams, visit the Washington State Office of the Attorney General's website at <http://www.atg.wa.gov/sweepstakes-scams>

If you are the victim of a scam, you will probably never get your money back. However, you may file a complaint at:

- Washington State Attorney General's Office, Consumer Fraud Division:
(206) 464-6684; or in Washington State only: (800) 551-4636
Website: www.atg.wa.gov/FileAComplaint.aspx
- Washington State Gambling Commission.
(360) 486-3466; or in Washington State only: (800) 345-2529, ext. 3466
Website: www.wsgc.wa.gov/rav/violation.asp