



# **CONSUMER ALERT**

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For immediate release:  
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## **State warns consumers about lottery scam**

(Salem) — The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Division and Finance and Corporate Securities, warns consumers about an ongoing, national scam involving a fictitious lottery.

During the past three weeks, hundreds of people across the United States have received notification letters from the Global United Sweepstakes Lottery. The letters inform the recipients that they have won an international lottery worth tens of thousands of dollars. The envelopes contain a cashier's check from MCT Credit Union, in Port Neches, Texas, for various amounts up to \$3,000.

The "winners" are instructed to cash the cashier's check and then call a "claims agent" in Nova Scotia for further instructions. When the recipients call the number, they are told to wire the money via a MoneyGram to a Canada location. They are told that this is an advance on their winnings to pay for processing and international taxes.

The supposed winners are told that in 24 to 72 hours, representatives will arrive at their door with several tens of thousands of dollars in cash. In reality, MCT Credit Union has been flooded with hundreds of forged cashier's checks. In two to three weeks, after the cashier's check is returned as fraudulent, the winners' accounts are debited for the original amount. MCT Credit Union has no connection to the fictitious lottery or claims agent. Any money sent to the sweepstakes agent is probably beyond recovery. The con artists simply pocket the check amount, which can be up to \$3,000, from each victim.

If anyone receives a notification of winning a lottery or any other type of contest and is requested to cash a check and send an advance-processing fee, they should immediately contact the local police. For more information, call Investigator Rob Brunner, Division of Finance & Corporate Securities, 503-947-7855.

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The Division of Finance and Corporate Securities (DFCS) helps ensure that a wide range of financial products and services are available to Oregonians and protects consumers from financial fraud and abuse. It does that by licensing financial institutions and service providers, regulating the sale of securities in Oregon, investigating complaints and alleged violations of financial-service laws, and providing education and other resources to consumers. For more information, visit [www.dfcs.oregon.gov](http://www.dfcs.oregon.gov).

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DFCS is part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon's largest regulatory agency. The department administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small business. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).