

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of San Joaquin County District Attorney
James P. Willett

What You Need to Know about Sweepstakes

✓ **Don't Pay to Win**

Buying magazines and other products does not increase your chances of winning. Never pay taxes or fees to receive your winnings.

✓ **Participating in Prize Promotions Will Put Your Name on Lists**

Con artists buy and sell leads on people who play sweepstakes. If you play, your name may appear on "sucker" or "mooch" lists and you'll be targeted for fraud. To reduce your risk for fraud, stop playing sweepstakes and don't talk to telemarketers – it's that simple!

✓ **Reduce Sweepstakes and Other Junk Mail/E-mail**

Send a letter to: Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 282, Carmel, NY 10512, or register online at: www.dmaconsumers.org/consumerassistance.html.

✓ **Don't Play Canadian and Out-of-State Lotteries**

It's illegal under federal law to sell and purchase foreign lotteries in the U.S. It is also illegal to sell and purchase lottery products over state lines.

✓ **Don't Fall for Mailings or Callers which Appear Official**

Promoters use mailings with pseudo government logos and official looking statements to persuade you that the promotions are legitimate. Telemarketers will lie and claim to be a government official or attorney as well.

✓ **Keep Credit Card, Bank and Personal Information to Yourself**

Never give your credit card number, bank account information, or social security number to anyone who calls or e-mails you, especially if it is to verify your eligibility or to "deposit" your winnings into your account.



**For assistance call the
DA's Elder Fraud Line:
(209) 468-2488**

CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the
community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation