

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

February 22, 2012



SCAM ALERT



The latest scam reported to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office involves a routine-appearing bogus prize claim notification, but this one also includes a fake check with the name of a Holt business as the issuer. Investigators were contacted by Certified Manufacturing, Inc. in Holt after the Okaloosa business learned someone is using checks with their name and address on them as part of a Lottery scam. (A sample copy of the letter and one of the bogus checks is attached to this release.)

The letter tells the recipient they won a large amount of cash after their name was drawn through a random computer ballot system in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The letter with contact information contains a check that is not to be used until the person calls a claim agent. The letter also states that the "tax amount is \$1995.00 to be paid directly to the tax agent." The person is advised "to contact your claim agent immediately".

These type scams are rampant. The real motive is typically to get an individual to send advance cash that is pocketed by the thieves, or to obtain personal information someone could use to steal identities.

If you are the target of a scam, you can report it to the OCSO Fraud Hotline at 850-651-7674.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

**Prize and Award Presentation
Equity Investment Group
111 Broad Street Oxford UK OX1 3AS**

**Tel: 1- 905 - 598 - 3414
Intl: 011447031881017**

February 7, 2012

CLAIM NO: EG/SDH - 01010

PRIZE CLAIM / FINAL NOTIFICATION

ATTN:

We are pleased to inform you that you are one of the declared winners of the MEGA LOTTERY conducted in UK being the host of the event for this present year Mega Jackpot lotto winning programs held on JANUARY 5TH, 2012 in the 2nd category. Ticket serial NO 498561256 drew the lucky winning NO 49-55-77-80-02.

We have made many unsuccessful attempts to contact you regarding this winning. You are therefore entitled to the sum of \$150,000.00 US DOLLARS. This is from total prize money of \$3 Million US dollars that was shared and presented among the other 20 declared winners. Please note that all the participants were selected through a random computer ballot system drawn from over 50,000 names in UNITED STATES, CANADA AND UNITED KINGDOM.

Your claim number is **EG/SDH - 1010** and has been assigned to our North American Claims Affiliate. To expedite the processing enclosed is the check of \$3,980.00 US dollars which has been deducted from your winning. The sole purpose of this check is for the payment of applicable Government Taxes on your big winnings. Government taxes cannot be deducted from the winning amount because of the insurance policy coverage. The tax amount is **\$1,995.00 US DOLLARS (ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE DOLLARS)** to be paid directly to the tax agent.

Please do not attempt to use this check until you call. We urge you to keep this winning CONFIDENTIAL until your claim has been processed and your cash remitted to you as this is part of our security protocol and to avoid double claiming or unscrupulous acts by non participants taking advantage of this program.

You are advised to contact your claim agent immediately and quote your claim number for further clarification as indicated below within 5 business days.

(Claim Agent) MICHAEL DUNDAS, 1- 905 - 598 - 3414

Congratulations,

Yours Truly



Lynne Wesley (Promotion Manager)

MEMO

CERTIFIED MANUFACTURING, INC.
589 ARMISTEAD BLVD
HOLT, FL 32564

WI 53083

THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY AND 00/100

14842
FIRST FLORIDA BANK
63-16180532

DATE 02/08/2012

\$ 3,980.00

DOLLARS

M. Wallace
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE