



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

Mt. Pleasant police warn of a Publishers Clearing House scam

MT. PLEASANT, Mich., October 29, 2015- The Mt. Pleasant Police Department wants to warn the public of a Publishers Clearing House scam. Residents have reported receiving calls from a Midland phone number claiming they are winners of a sum of money through Publishers Clearing House, but they must first send the caller money in order to claim their winnings. These callers have been persistent. Below are some tips to identify a scam and avoid becoming a victim:

Beware of fake checks. If you receive a check claiming to be from a valid sweepstakes company and are asked to cash the check and send a portion of the money back, you are the target of a scam. The check is not real.

Never give your credit card number or financial information to collect a prize. If you are asked to provide your credit card number or provide your financial bank account information in order to claim a sweepstakes prize, you have been contacted by a fraudulent sweepstakes company. Scam artists often request this information and then go on a spending spree with your credit card or empty your bank account.

Never send money to claim a sweepstakes prize. If you are asked to send money to prepay taxes, pay a legal fee, pay a border fee, or pay any kind of fee to claim a sweepstakes prize, you are being scammed. Whether contacted by mail, phone or email, remember no legitimate sweepstakes company will ever ask you to pay or send money to claim a prize. It's prohibited and unlawful!

If you believe you have been contacted by a scam we recommend that you contact your local consumer protection officials and file a complaint with the National Fraud Information Center at www.fraud.org. Your complaint may help others and will be useful to law enforcement in stopping the scams.

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