

## “Congratulations! You’ve won!”

It is likely traumatizing to believe that you are the lucky winner of a lottery game jackpot only to find out later that it is actually you who was played.

Cases like this where scammers extract money in the form of lottery scams continue to multiply these days, and anyone can be their next victim. That’s why it is important to know how to recognize a lottery scam and how to avoid falling prey to one.

### **What is a lottery scam?**

A lottery scam is a form of advance-fee fraud that tricks people into thinking that they won a lump sum of money or prizes from a lottery or competition that they did not enter. Scammers often target their victims through emails, phone calls, text messages, and even social media sites.

The jackpot prizes that scammers use to bait their victims could be anything from a huge amount of money, a dream vacation, or an expensive electronic gadget. Because the offers are usually made too enticing, victims who are unaware of this type of scam might take the bait without thinking of what they could lose.

### **What are the telltale signs of a lottery scam?**

**You have to pay a fee first.** A legitimate company releases its lottery prizes in full and does not ask for processing fees from the winners. If the sender asks you to pay a processing fee or any dodgy payments of some sort, then that is a surefire way to tell that you are being scammed.

**You are pressured to respond.** In the messages that they send, scammers often set an expiry date for claiming prizes. This is intentionally done to pressure you to respond quickly and without doubting the sender.

**You are told to keep it confidential.** To prevent you from verifying their legitimacy and limit their chances of being exposed to the authorities, scammers often ask you to keep your winnings a secret.

**The message does not look professional.** If the message comes from a seemingly legitimate account but is poorly edited and riddled with grammar and spelling mistakes, it is possibly something that you should not trust at all.

**The message starts with a generic greeting.** If you truly win a jackpot prize, the lottery company usually addresses you by your name in any form of communication that they use to contact you. Scammers, however, do not usually know you, so they start their messages with generic greetings, like “Dear winner” or “Dear valued user.”

### **How to avoid lottery scams?**

**Ignore it.** You can’t possibly win if you did not buy a lottery ticket or joined any lottery games. A good rule of thumb is to ignore any suspicious messages informing you that you are randomly picked as the winner of a jackpot prize.

**Never send them money.** Legitimate companies never ask for fees to process your winnings. No matter how tempting it is, never exchange your money for a deceptively attractive offer from a suspicious sender.

**Don’t disclose your personal information.** Other than your money, scammers may also attempt to collect your personal information for illicit reasons. Do not fill out any form or answer questions if you suspect that the person you are communicating with is a scammer.

—

As much as you want the lottery prizes to be real, they most probably are not. If you receive a message that appears to be a lottery scam in your corporate email account, contact [productsecurity@meditab.com](mailto:productsecurity@meditab.com) immediately.