

Fraudulent Sweepstakes Alert!

Someone claiming to be with a government agency is calling consumers across the nation to inform them they have won a huge sweepstakes from the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The hitch? As the winner, you'll need to pay thousands of dollars to cover taxes or insurance on the prize. **This is a Scam!**

The caller I.D. shows the call coming from the 202 area code (Washington DC) and it may seem on the up and up, but it's all just a scheme. A scheme using a well-known charity that grants wishes to very sick children.

According to Make-a wish, there have been 29 known victims or attempted victims across the country, and the number is climbing. Arizona (1), California (2), Florida (6), Hawaii (1), Idaho (1), Kansas (1), Michigan (1), Nebraska (1), Nevada (1), New Jersey (1), New York (2), Ohio (2), Oregon (2), Pennsylvania (2), Tennessee (1), Texas (2), Virginia(1) and Wisconsin (1).

Here are a few facts and tips to protect yourself and others:

- If someone asks you to wire money or provide your bank account information over the telephone, **hang up the phone!**
- Anytime you have to [pay to get a prize](#), it's a scam.
- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) doesn't oversee sweepstakes and no FTC staff is involved in giving out sweepstakes prizes. They do, however, go after [sweepstakes scams](#) like this one.
- If an FTC case results in refunds, you can find the details at [ftc.gov/redress](https://www.ftc.gov/redress).
- The Make-a-Wish Foundation has [information about this specific scam](#) on its fraud alerts page.

If you encounter this or other scams, report it to the Washington State Attorney General at 1-800-551-4636 or, visit the Attorney General's website and file a formal complaint online at...

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ComplaintForm.aspx>