



CITY OF PARMA OHIO

LAW DEPARTMENT



6611 RIDGE ROAD

PARMA, OHIO 44129-5593

440-885-8132

Timothy G. Dobeck
Law Director
Prosecutor

June 3, 2019

LAW DIRECTOR ADVISORY

PUBLISHERS CLEARING HOUSE SCAM

It has come to the attention of my office that Parma residents are once again at risk of becoming victims of a scam. A Parma resident noted that he received a letter from what seemed to be Publishers Clearing House indicating that he had won a substantial sum of money from a Mega Prize Payout.

Victims of this scam will receive a letter in the mail from a company claiming to be Publishers Clearing House. The letter will say that you won a substantial cash prize and direct you to call an agent to collect the prize. When you call they will ask you to provide information and tell you that they will be sending a form for you to complete and return before you can receive your prize.

The Parma Law Director's office urges Parma residents to be aware of these potential threats and to report any suspicious behavior. You should **never** provide or confirm sensitive information over the phone. If you are being pressured to act immediately, hang up the phone, as it is most likely a fraudulent service. If you receive a form in the mail asking you to fill out personal information do not respond and report it.

Below are a few tips to protect yourself from and avoid any potential scams:

- **Spot the scam:** There are a few telltale signs of a Publishers Clearing House Scam. Publishers Clearing House only notifies winners in person or by certified letter. If you are notified by email, phone call, or bulk letter then you are being scammed. A true Publishers Clearing House winner will also never have to pay to receive their prize. Lastly, a letter containing any of the following contact information is a scam and should be reported:
 - o 1-845-244-8112
 - o 1-845-210-6695
 - o 19574 Molalla Ave, Oregon City OR, 97054
- **Receiving a check:** Scammers sometimes will send you a fraudulent check to make the scam appear legitimate. They will ask for you to send back a portion of the money and you will end up losing your money.

- **Verify:** If you are unsure if your prize is legitimate, you can contact Publishers Clearing House directly and ask them to verify your prize. However, be certain not to phone them at the number that is provided on the fraudulent letter. You can also conduct research on the contact information provided to ensure that it is not a scam.
- **Facebook:** Scammers have begun to use Facebook as a tool to trick victims. Scammers will create a fake Facebook page that mimics the look of the real Publishers Clearing House page and message people telling them they have won a prize and ask for money before they can claim their winnings. Publishers Clearing House will never notify winners by Facebook message, so do not act if you receive one of these messages.

Should you believe that you were contacted by a scam service, do not hesitate to call and report your suspicions to the Parma Police Department Non-Emergency Number at (440) 885-1234 and your Federal Trade Commission at (877) FTC-HELP or ftc.gov/complaint.