

# Petaluma Police Department

## **AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Petaluma Police Department has recently been involved in investigating numerous scams involving Western Union transactions; Internet/mail/phone transactions that include large sums of money and fraudulent claims of lottery/sweepstakes winnings. These scams usually involve multiple jurisdictions and often various states. They are very difficult to investigate and in most cases the money is never recovered and the perpetrators are not apprehended.

To help prevent you from becoming a victim of these frauds the Petaluma Police Department has come up with a few guidelines you should consider when/if you are contacted and you suspect a scam:

- 1) Any time a Western Union transaction is requested...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 2) Any time you are asked to send money to win money...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 3) Any time someone contacts you claiming you have “won” money when you have not entered any contests, etc...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 4) Any time someone calls you to make bail for a relative who is in custody in another country...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 5) Any time you receive a check and asked to deposit the check and send back a portion of the money via wire or into another person’s bank account...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 6) When “Craiglist” transactions are conducted and the buyer or seller is out of state or out of the country ...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 7) Any time you are contacted to be a “Secret Shopper” ...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 8) You receive an email that they have inherited a large sum of money and need your help in acquiring it...**BE SUSPICIOUS.**
- 9) Any time an offer seems too good to be true...it is; and is a **SCAM.**

If you are contacted by someone and you feel as though the person might be trying to “scam” you, **please call the Petaluma Police Department at (707)778-4372**

Respectfully,

Dan Fish, Chief of Police  
Petaluma Police Department