



## **Vacaville Police Department**

660 Merchant Street

Vacaville, California 95688

Communications Center: 707.449.5200

Internet: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police/pressrelease.php>

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## *Press Release*

**Today's Date:** 06/26/09  
**Date & Time Occurred:** Ongoing/various  
**Submitted By:** Sgt. Spruill for Detective Shawn Windham  
**Phone:** (707) 469-6600  
**Case Number:** N/A  
**Type of Crime/Incident:** Senior Scams  
**Location:** Various  
**Suspects:** N/A

### **Narrative:**

The Vacaville Police Department would like to warn our citizens that senior telephone scams seem to be on the rise. There are many variations of senior scams; however the Jamaican Lottery scam is currently the most prevalent.

The Jamaican Lottery scam usually begins with a phone call to the victim. The caller will call from a Jamaican area code, typically 876, will often have what sounds to be a Jamaican accent, and will inform the victim that they have won a prize of a million dollars, a vehicle or some other prize. The victim will be told they need to pay taxes to claim the winnings.

Lately, the victims are being told by the scammers that someone will come to their homes the same day to collect the "tax" money and are told to have their "tax" money ready when the representative arrives.

Victims often receive multiple phone calls from the scammers and will eventually be told to send the money, typically via a wire transfer, in order to collect the prize money. The victims are often told not to tell anyone about winning their prize to avoid excessive public attention.

The scammers will sometimes become rude and/or threatening toward the victim to persuade them to send the money. The scammers usually have the victim's personal information, including home address, which the scammers often use as an intimidation tactic. The victims are often given a password by the scammer and told not to discuss their winnings with anyone who does not have the password. Seniors will likely receive phone calls from many different scammers, regardless if they have actually sent money to the scammers.



If you do not expect international phone calls, we recommend seniors consider contacting the company that provides their residential phone service to determine if it is possible to have a block placed on their phones to prevent receiving international phone calls. As long as seniors do not have any need to make or receive international phone calls, a block placed on their phone may prevent phone calls from Jamaican scammers.

The Vacaville Police Department would like to remind all citizens to always verify the source of phone calls when you are asked for money or bank information. Additionally, never give personal information such as Social Security numbers, date of birth, etc. to these callers.

In some cases, the scammers may seem to have personal information about the victim and they will use that information to convince them they are actually someone known to the victim.

If you have any questions or concerns about a phone call you believe may be a scam, you can contact the Vacaville Police Department at (707) 449-5200.