

February, 2008

FRAUD ALERT!

Nigerian Letter Scam

The Nigerian letter scam is well known to many people around the world. This scam is now being perpetrated through the internet via email as well as the traditional US Postage Mail letter.

The scam comes in many forms and it usually involves innocent recipients who receive a letter from a "Government Official" or an "officer" of a Nigerian state business who claims to have stolen millions of dollars and needs to get the money out of the country. The person cannot use his own bank account and therefore asks to send money to your bank account after which he would give you 10-35% of the money in exchange for this service. Once the fraudster has your account number he/she then would withdraw money from your account and you will never see a dime!

There are many variations of this scam. Such scams have included the opportunity to receive a tremendous return on your investment. You are asked to send monies overseas or to Canada to a certain bank account and then asked to invest more and more to avoid losing money on the investment. In all cases the money is lost and unrecoverable. This scam is not restricted to letters or emails from Nigeria any more but all involve the same telltale signs. The scam requires either upfront money or your bank account information.

If you receive an unsolicited email resembling any scam, simply delete the email and contact your local police department or the Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adult Task Force.

Remember to never give out your financial or personal information and never advance any funds up front.

**For more information or to report a scam in Bucks County-
contact any one of the Task Force members:**

**BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE-
FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY**

WWW.CRIMESAGAINSTOLDERADULTSBUCKS.ORG

1-800-490-8505

Bucks County District Attorney's Office
215-348-6344

Bucks County Consumer Protection
215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills
215-348-6265

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
215-348-0510

Network of Victim Assistance
1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Coroner
215-348-3852