



**Fraud Friday**  
**November 5, 2021**

**“You’ve won! Now pay us” is always a scam.**



During these difficult economic times, it is easy to imagine our financial problems disappearing by winning a big prize. But if you get a call from someone saying, “You’ve won,” don’t believe the hype.

The scammers are trying to push you into a heightened emotional state, to knock you off balance just long enough to steal your money and personal information.

Consider these tips to avoid this scam:

**Legitimate sweepstakes don’t make you pay a fee to get your prize.**

That includes paying “taxes”, “shipping and handling charges”, or “processing fees.”

**Don’t send money transfers or gift cards, or give personal information.**

Sending money transfers or gift cards (or providing the gift card numbers) is like sending cash: once the money is gone, you can’t trace it or get it back.

**Don’t trust your caller ID.**

Scammers can make any name and number show on your caller ID.

*Scammers don’t just scam one person. Tell your friends and family about the scam so they can avoid it. Then report it to the FTC: [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).*

Reference: [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov)