

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: James Hallinan

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(505) 660-2216

SCAM ALERT: Attorney General Balderas Warns New Mexicans of Prize Offer Scams

Balderas: Remember, if you have to pay to claim a prize, in reality you did not win

Albuquerque, NM – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas issued a Scam Alert to inform the public of unjust, misleading, or deceptive business practices, and to inform and guide the public on other issues of interest. Consumer Alerts are not legal advice, legal authority, or binding legal opinions by the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General. Please see below for the latest scam impacting New Mexico and how to protect yourself.

The Scam: Prize Offers;

Congratulations, today is your lucky day!

You have just won a tablet and two years of internet service!

To claim your prize just send this amount of money.

Attorney General Balderas issued this Scam Alert in response to complaints received by New Mexico consumers. Consumers report to have received telephone calls in which a person represents that consumer has won a prize in the form of a tablet and two years of internet service. The person then requests \$300 to \$400 dollars from consumer to claim the prize. When the consumer fails to send the money or refuses to send the money, the person threatens the consumer with legal action. If you receive a telephone call such as this, you can take action to protect yourself:

1. Be a skeptic. Everyone desires to be a winner. It is possible that it is not worth your time to claim your “prize.” In fact, claiming the “prize” may end up costing you hundreds of dollars and the prize may never arrive. **Remember, if you have to pay to claim a prize, in reality you did not win.**
2. NEVER send money to or share your credit card number, bank information, social security number, or other personal information with someone who calls you.
3. Register your phone number with the National “Do Not Call” Registry. The National Do Not Call Registry gives you the option of whether you want to receive telemarketing calls to your home. The majority of telemarketers should not call you if your number is registered with the National Do Not Call Registry. You can register your home or mobile phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry free of charge. For more information on how to register, visit the National Do Not Call Registry website: www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you wish to register.
4. Submit a Consumer Complaint with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General.
 - a. To obtain an electronic copy of the Consumer Complaint, visit our website: <http://www.nmag.gov/uploads/files/ComplaintForms/ConsumerComplaintForm.pdf>.
 - b. Call the Office of the Attorney General at 1-866-627-3249. Se habla español.

c. To obtain a Consumer Complaint in person or by mail, contact our office closest to you:

Albuquerque Office of the Attorney General
111 Lomas Blvd. NW
Suite 120
Albuquerque, NM 87102
(505) 222-9100

Santa Fe Office of the Attorney General
408 Galisteo Street
Santa Fe: NM 87501
505-827-6000

Las Cruces Office of the Attorney General
201 N. Church Street
Suite 315
Las Cruces, NM 88001
(575) 526-2280

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