



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**80 Year Old West Sacramento Man Falls Prey to Lottery Scam**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Today, Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, in conjunction with the West Sacramento Police Department and Yolo County Adult Protective Services, announced that citizens should be on the alert for an ongoing scam involving the Lottery.

Recently, an 80 year old West Sacramento man was approached at a busy parking lot in West Sacramento by a clean cut man seeking help in locating an attorney to assist with an immigration issue. He claimed to have a winning lottery ticket but could not cash it because he was not a legal U.S. citizen. A second person, appearing to be a stranger but actually part of the scam, offered to assist. This person used his cell phone to call someone pretending to be with the Lottery who “verified” the ticket was worth over \$600,000 dollars. That person said that if the two individuals paid money up front, the ticket would be honored. The con artists convinced the victim to get \$9,000 cash from his bank for up front money in exchange for a large part of the prize. While driving back from the bank the con men distracted the victim and got away with his money.

According to the California Lottery, this Lotto scam is becoming more common. It is typically run by con artists who target the elderly and often approach the victim at a shopping center parking lot by asking for directions or some type of assistance in order to start a conversation. The con artists are very skilled at fooling their targets and before the victim realizes the scam, the con artists are gone with the ir money.

Older adults must be very cautious when approached by strangers. These con artists will try to convince the victim to drive them to the bank and give them money. Error on the side of caution and do not engage suspicious individuals in conversation. Never give them a ride anywhere. If suspicions are aroused, call the police with a description of the individuals and car license number if possible. Keep in mind that one does not have to be a U.S. Citizen to claim a lottery prize and that the Lottery does not confirm winning tickets over the telephone.

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