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PRESS RELEASE: "READER'S DIGEST" SCAM ALERT

The Franklin County District Attorney's Office has been made aware of a scam involving callers claiming to be associated with Reader's Digest, notifying residents that they may have won a 1.5 million dollar sweepstakes. The caller advises that a processing fee is required in order to proceed with the process and asks for a credit card or debit card number to complete the process.

Scammers will often pose as a representative of a well-known company or contest and will sound very convincing in an attempt to obtain a person's credit card or bank account information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit such information by telephone. Often, these scammers are operating from locations not only outside of Pennsylvania, but from outside of the United States.

The District Attorney's Office would like to remind citizens that if someone calls them advising that they have won a sweepstakes, they should not provide the caller with any personal or banking information. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. If you have any doubts, don't trust the legitimacy of a call, even if your Caller ID reflects "Readers Digest" or something similar; scammers will disguise their phone numbers using various computer programs.

Although this Office is aware that persons residing in Franklin County have received these calls, it is not believed that anyone has actually provided their account numbers or has lost any money.

If you believe that you are the victim of a scam, contact your local Municipal Police Department or the PA State Police.