

Scam Alert – Fake Publisher’s Clearing House Scams

Most of us have seen those ads with Publisher’s Clearing House knocking on someone’s door with balloons and a big check for millions. It could be a life changing moment! But scammers have seized on these events to run a scam. They are pretending to be Publishes Clearing House and tricking people into sending them money.

Here’s how the scam works:

You may get a phone call, or an email, or a letter, claiming that you’ve won a big prize. If you receive a letter or email, the document will have what looks like the Publisher’s Clearing House logo on the top, and often the logos of “endorsers” on the bottom, for example, the Disney Corporation. These fake endorsements are there to give the solicitation a semblance of legitimacy. The scammers will claim that you’ve won the sweepstakes, but to collect your prize, you need to send money to pay for so-called fees and taxes.

Red Flags

- Asking you to pay a fee or buy something to collect a prize. This is always a scam. A legitimate sweepstakes cannot ask you to pay a fee or buy anything to collect your prize.
- Asking you to send money by way of Western Union, MoneyGram or a prepaid card
- Publisher’s Clearing House will never ask you to pay a fee to collect a prize.
- Publisher’s Clearing House will never call ahead to say you’ve won.

What to do:

- If it’s a phone call, hang up the phone. Do not engage in any conversation.
- If you receive an email, delete immediately; if you receive a letter, throw it away.
- Never give out confidential information to anyone claiming to be from PCH.