



Oshkosh Police Department

Date: September 30, 2010
Time: 7:30 A.M.
Contact: Officer Joseph Nichols
(920) 236-5742

Subject: Fraudulent Schemes

MEDIA RELEASE

The Oshkosh Police Department has received recent reports of attempted fraud being facilitated by the use of email, traditional mail, parcel post and package delivery services.

In these fraudulent schemes, a citizen will typically receive a check accompanied by a letter directing them to cash the check and wire money to a third party. The check might be overpayment for an item listed for sale on the internet, accompanied by a letter directing them to cash the check and wire the difference to a third party for shipping costs. The check might also be unsolicited and accompanied by a letter informing them that they have won a foreign lottery, that they stand to inherit money from a distant relative, or that they have been selected as a secret shopper. In each case they are directed to cash the check and wire a portion of the money to a third party to cover processing fees.

The check will appear real enough to be accepted by many financial institutions, only to be discovered later as a counterfeit resulting in the loss of money to the person who cashed it. In the meantime, money has already been wired to a third party who is usually located outside the state or country.

The Oshkosh Police Department wants to educate the public about these fraudulent schemes and caution citizens to recognize offers that are too good to be true. If you or someone you know has suffered a financial loss due to a fraudulent scheme, please contact the Oshkosh Police Department at (920)236-5700 to file a report.

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