

THE MORE YOU KNOW...

KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT FRAUD SCHEMES

JAMAICAN FRAUD SCHEMES IN THE NEWS

Jamaican fraud schemes come in a variety of types: fraudulent lottery and sweepstakes winnings, grandparent scams, romance scams, and the list goes on! Fortunately, some of the people responsible for defrauding Americans are being held accountable. Here are summaries of recent Jamaican fraud schemes in the news!

- ◆ On July 1, 2015, thirty-two year old Carlos O'Brien Ricketts, a Jamaican citizen living in Virginia was sentenced to ten months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$74,450 in restitution to victims. Mr. Ricketts participated in a lottery scheme based in Jamaica that induced elderly victims to send funds to cover sweepstakes prizes that did not exist.
- ◆ Damion Byran Barrett became the first Jamaican to be extradited to the United States to face lottery fraud charges. Mr. Barrett pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud related to his involvement in the lottery fraud scheme. In June, 2015, Mr. Barrett was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$96,456 in restitution to victims.
- ◆ Twenty-five year old Jamaican citizen Sanjay Ashani Williams was found guilty of conspiracy to commit wire fraud or mail fraud, conspiracy to commit international money laundering, and thirty-five counts of wire fraud related to a lottery fraud scheme on May 7, 2015, by a Federal jury in North Dakota. Mr. Williams is the first Jamaican defendant to be tried and convicted in the United States related to these types of fraud schemes. Keep your eyes open for news on his sentencing in the future!
- ◆ In February of 2015, twenty-four year old Shanice Ethridge from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was sentenced to five years and three months in prison and ordered to pay more than \$132,000 in restitution to victims who had been told by a Jamaican fraudster to send money to Ms. Ethridge to pay bogus fees before they could collect sweepstakes winnings.

These types of cases are successful because people report their victimization. If you find yourself a victim in a fraud scheme, even if you are ashamed or embarrassed, please report!!

WANT TO REPORT A POSSIBLE FRAUD?

General Reports: Anti-Fraud Hotline (provided by the U.S. Senate Aging Commission)

1.855.303.9470 or www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline

Telephone or online fraud scheme? Federal Trade Commission (877.FTC.Help), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov)

Mail fraud scheme? United States Postal Inspection Service
1.717.257.2330 or www.postalinspectors.uspis.gov

Scheme involving money sent with GreenDot, MoneyGram or Western Union?
Green Dot: 1.866.795.7597
MoneyGram: 1.800.MONEYGRAM or 1.800.666.3947
Western Union Fraud Hotline: 1.800.448.1492