

Consumer **WARNING**

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN

CON ARTISTS PROMISE "BIG MONEY" IN RETURN FOR "SMALL FEE"

My office continues to receive calls from consumers complaining they have been solicited by con artists promising big profits in exchange for help moving large sums of money out of Nigeria. In this enduring e-mail scam, someone posing as a Nigerian official, business person, or surviving relative of a government official offers to transfer millions of dollars into a consumer's bank account in exchange for a small fee. The offer typically preys on the recipient's compassion by telling a fabricated story of loss and suffering.

Consumers who respond to the come-on receive an official-looking document and are asked to provide blank letterhead and bank account numbers, as well as to pay for the transaction costs and attorney fees.

Although these promises are enticing and the paperwork may look legitimate, once you provide your bank account numbers to these con artists, they will drain your accounts and leave you a victim of identity theft.

Remember, never provide your bank account numbers to anyone who calls you or solicits you via e-mail. Never send them money or agree to meet with them in person for any reason. Simply ignore the solicitation, report it to my office, or forward the e-mail to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov.



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