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## **PHONE SCAMS – A CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGE FROM POLICE**

It all begins with a phone call. By pretentiously conducting a telephone survey, the scammers would eventually inform their victims of an invitation to attend an event. A few days later, the victims would be informed that they have won a prize as their names and mobile numbers were entered into a lucky draw on their behalf. In order to claim the prize, the victims would be told to pay administrative fees or other payments into a bank account or through a remittance house. After each payment has been paid, the victims would often be asked to make further payments, with the promise of large sums of money. The payments only end when the victims realize that they have been deceived or when they run out of money.

2. In other scenarios, the caller(s) may take on a hostile tone and fictitiously tell victims of them having pending cases with the Singapore Courts or with enforcement agencies. The caller(s) would eventually ask for payments in order to absolve them from their cases or to safe-keep their money. The caller(s) may even threaten to harm a family member if no payment was received.

3. If you receive such a call:

- a. Do not pay any money in advance to collect a prize,
- b. Do not reveal your identity, bank account number or other personal information over the phone,
- c. Do not engage in prolonged conversations with the caller,
- d. Remember the Police, Supreme Court or any government agency would **never** ask anyone, especially those in connection to a criminal case, to transfer money to a bank account. If any payment is to be made, an official written notice and an official receipt would be issued.

4. Another variation of such scams involves a 'kidnap' ruse. The caller(s) would claim that the victim's loved one had been kidnapped and demand that a ransom be transferred to a specific bank account. During the call, background noises may sometimes be heard of someone struggling and yelling for the victim for help.

5. If you receive such a call, remain calm. Be wary and do not fall prey. Try to contact your loved-one immediately on his/her mobile phone, at the workplace/school, friends who could be with him/her, etc. Should repeated attempts at contacting your loved-one fail, seek assistance from the police.

6. Those who receive such calls should alert the Police. More details of such scams can be found in the SPF website at [www.spf.gov.sg](http://www.spf.gov.sg) or [www.cad.gov.sg](http://www.cad.gov.sg).

Yours sincerely,

**EVON NG**  
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**SINGAPORE POLICE FORCE**

**CRIME PREVENTION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**