



Maryland State Treasurer's Office
Nancy K. Kopp, Treasurer

***** Fraudulent Check Scam Alert *****

September 22, 2008

Annapolis, MD

The Maryland State Treasurer's Office has become aware of a sharp increase in "secret shopper" and "lottery" scams involving the receipt of a fraudulent check that appears to be issued by the State of Maryland.

The scammers mail the potential victim a fraudulent check along with a letter from a fake company, usually with a Canadian address. In one scam, the letter says the victim has been selected to conduct a secret shopping assignment. In the other scam, the letter says the victim has won a lottery prize.

In both scams, the potential victim is directed to deposit the fraudulent check into their bank account and then to immediately wire a portion of the check proceeds to the scammers using Western Union or Money Gram. **Please Note** - the check will be returned as uncollected because it is counterfeit, and any money wired to the scammers cannot be retrieved.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection hotline number at (410) 528-8662 or toll-free (888) 743-0023.

Additional information from the US Department of the Treasury regarding these types of scams, including a list of phone numbers to file a complaint can be found at the following website:

<http://www.occ.treas.gov/AntiFraudConsumer.htm>