

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST FRAUD



Millions of people transfer money to their relatives throughout the world every day. To enable you to protect yourself as effectively as possible against fraud, it is important for you to always remain vigilant about whom you are transferring money to. The following information will help you achieve this.

ACT RESPONSIBLY and only transfer money to people you know personally, or whose identity you can verify clearly!

BE CAREFUL ABOUT TRANSFERRING MONEY FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- Auctions, orders or purchases on the Internet, especially concerning extremely cheap equipment or items.
- If someone asks you to pay taxes or fees for alleged lottery winnings or prizes that have supposedly been won.
- If you are supposed to make advance payments or pay fees in order to receive a loan.
- In response to investment offers that allegedly promise high rates of return. Such offers are usually received by e-mail or by way of a letter.
- If a cheque for an excessive amount has been made out to you and you have been asked to send back the balance to the issuer by money transfer.
- If you have been asked to pay the expenses incurred by the finder for the return of lost valuables or animals that have run away.
- If someone asks you to transfer money immediately to prevent something awful happening to you.

REMAIN AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING RISKS:

- The money will be available for collection by the beneficiary immediately after you as the sender have been given the money transfer control number (MTCN). This 10-digit, randomly generated number offers no kind of security, as it is not always mandatory for the beneficiary to cite this number before he or she is able to collect the money.
- Test questions as a security measure are only used in certain countries and only in an emergency if the beneficiaries there usually possess no identity cards. In all other countries, test questions offer no added protection because the money will be paid out if the beneficiary can identify him- or herself with an identity card, even if the test question is not answered.
- Beneficiaries with fraudulent intent will often ask the person sending the money to state a fictitious beneficiary name for the transaction as a presumed security measure. After the goods have been received, the person sending the money is supposed to have the fictitious name changed to the true beneficiary's name so that he or she can collect the money. Such fraudulent beneficiaries could then arrange to have a forged passport or ID card produced in the fictitious person's name and use this to collect the money before the person sending the money has received his or her goods. These would accordingly also never arrive.
- Be especially careful if someone asks you to return the balance from a bank cheque which has inadvertently been made out for an excessive amount. The bank cheque will frequently turn out to be forged. Before proceeding with the transfer, it is essential that you wait until your bank confirms that the money from the cheque has been definitively credited to your account and cannot, under any circumstances, be transferred back. We strongly advise you against sending the balance before this takes place. In any case, please always enquire in advance at your bank about the conditions and number of days for a cheque to be cleared and cashed.

Always ask yourself the following questions:

- Is what I am supposed to be doing really sensible?
- Who will be receiving the money? Do I know the beneficiary personally, and is he or she entirely trustworthy?
- Isn't the offer too favourable or, expressed differently "too good, to be true"?
- Do I really need to transfer the money immediately?

IMPORTANT!

If you have just made a cash transaction and suspect that you have fallen victim to fraud, please ask the bank clerk to stop the payment immediately, or contact a Western Union agent without delay. Since the money is usually lost forever in the case of fraud, even if you report it to the authorities, we would like to protect you and our distribution agents. Therefore we refuse to carry out transactions, if we have concrete reasons to suspect fraudulent intentions on the part of the recipient.