



## **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release – August 15, 2012*

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### **Lottery scams common in Oklahoma**

OKLAHOMA CITY — With the Oklahoma Powerball reaching \$320 million this week, there is a potential for an increase of lottery scams to arrive in the state.

In a lottery scam, consumers are notified they have won a lottery, yet have to pay transfer fees, taxes or provide proof of their identity and/or details of their bank accounts or credit cards to receive the “winnings.”

Oklahoma community bankers, in partnership with the Oklahoma Bankers Association, have provided the following tips to help Oklahomans avoid falling victim to lottery scams:

- If you have not entered a legitimate lottery, you could not have won it;
- You never have to pay to collect winnings from a legitimate lottery;
- Taxes are paid after you receive the winnings;
- There are no fees to collect winnings;
- Lotteries do not notify winners by mail, phone or email. It is the responsibility of the winner to notify the lottery;
- It is illegal under U.S. federal law for any U.S. resident to play in any foreign lottery;
- If it isn't conducted by a government or government-authorized charitable organization, it cannot be a legitimate lottery.

The OBA conducts more than 70 educational programs and seminars each year, which touch more than 5,000 bankers across the state. The Association represents approximately 230 banks across the state and serves as the primary advocate for the banking industry. It's also heavily involved in fraud training and prevention as well as legal and compliance services and communications for its member banks.

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