



CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'RE A WINNER!

Congratulations - You Have a Winning Ticket!

All winning tickets valued at \$600 or more must be claimed at either the Phoenix or Tucson Lottery Office. Lottery players must be 21 years of age or older to play or redeem Lottery games.

If You're Coming to a Lottery Office:

Both the Phoenix and Tucson Lottery offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm (offices are closed on government holidays). Bring your signed original ticket, as well as your driver license, State ID, or other governmental issue identification that includes your photograph. Be aware that your Social Security number is required on the Arizona Lottery Winner Claim Form. Additional paperwork will need to be completed at the Lottery office.

If You're Mailing Your Claim:

For all winning tickets valued at \$600 or more, you must complete an Arizona Lottery Winners Claim Form (be sure to include your Social Security number). If your Lottery retailer does not have claim forms, they are available [online](#).

Before mailing in your claim, 1) fill out the back of the ticket and make a copy of the front and back of the ticket, plus all paperwork for your records, 2) determine if you want cash or annuity payments and 3) contact the Arizona Lottery at 480-921-4400 to find out what additional paperwork may need to be completed if you are opting for an annuity, and it will be mailed to you. Please note that all mail-in paperwork relating to the cash or annuity option will need to be notarized. Make a copy of the front of your driver license, State ID, or other government-issued ID that includes your photograph, and mail the original ticket and all information and required forms to: Arizona Lottery, Attention: Claims, Box 2913, Phoenix, AZ 85062-2913. Once all necessary paperwork has been received by the Lottery, please allow approximately two weeks for processing.

If You Are Part of an Office Pool:

Every member of the pool must be 21 years of age or older to play or redeem Lottery games. In addition, **every member of the pool must choose the same option** (cash or annuity payments).

In order to redeem the winning ticket, each pool member must complete a claim form, as well as provide copies of a driver license or government-issued photo ID (as stated in "Mailing Your Claim" above). **All documents must be submitted at the same time.** If your pool members choose to do so, one person may be designated to be the pool's representative. To redeem the winning ticket, your designated representative must bring in the original signed ticket and all signed and completed claim forms, including a copy of driver licenses or government-issued photo IDs.

Powerball[®], Mega Millions[®], and The Pick[™] Jackpots

You have 60 days from the date the ticket is presented for validation to make a decision as to whether you want the cash or annuity option. If you do not select the cash or annuity option within the 60-day time period, your prize money will be paid as an annuity.

The Difference between Cash and Annuity Payments:

Mega Millions:

The annuity is a graduated annuity. The annuity payments will have a 5% escalation per payment (annual payments for 26 years). The cash value is estimated as 1/2 of the annuity minus applicable taxes.

Powerball:

The Powerball annuity is paid out in graduated amounts (rising by 4% per year to keep up with inflation) over 29 years (30 payments). The annual payments grow larger to keep pace with the winner's expected cost of living. The cash value is estimated as 1/2 of the annuity minus applicable taxes.

The Pick:

The advertised jackpot is the amount available if the annuity option is chosen (annual payments for 30 years). The cash value is not an annuitized percentage but the cash value available to purchase the annuity. The cash value is estimated as 1/2 of the annuity minus applicable taxes.

Note: Whether it is cash or annuity, the prize money is the winner's property and, as such, in case of death is paid to the winner's beneficiary (ies).

If a winner chooses the cash option for The Pick, the Lottery will usually issue a check on the day the ticket is validated. Powerball and Mega Millions winners usually receive their checks after 14 business days.

Taxes:

The IRS requires that you report ALL Lottery winnings.

The Lottery is required by law to withhold 25% for federal taxes and 5% for state income taxes for United States citizens or resident aliens. For non-resident aliens, the current withholding tax is 30% federal and 6% state. Winners may also be liable for additional or fewer taxes when reported to the IRS.

Debt Set-Off Program:

The Lottery is required by A.R.S. 5-525, to participate in the Debt Set-Off Program. When a winner submits a valid claim for a Lottery prize of \$600 or more, the Lottery's database will automatically check for debt information submitted to us by other State agencies. If the system identifies a debt owed to the state, it will automatically generate a check to the agency or agencies to whom the debt is owed and another check to the winner for the remainder of the prize amount. The check generated against the debt is immediately sent to the appropriate agency. The winner is still responsible for taxes on the full amount of the Lottery prize.

By law, the Arizona Lottery cannot make any adjustments once a prize has been claimed. If the debt set-off is in error, you must appeal to the agency named in the paper provided to you.

Public Disclosure

As a state agency, and due to the fact that winnings are comprised of public money, the Arizona Lottery is subject to public disclosure laws, requiring 90 days after the win that every winner's name, city of residence, and the amount won, be a matter of public record. In addition, the Lottery may issue a press release stating the above-mentioned information as well as the date won, retailer name, and location. Additional information may also be included if the winner has agreed that it can be released.

Expired Tickets:

All draw game tickets expire 180 days from the date of the draw. Once a ticket has expired, it cannot be redeemed – even if it is a winner.

Scratchers® tickets expire 180 days from the game-ending date. The game-ending dates are available on the Lottery's website.

Consultation About Your Winnings:

The Lottery suggests that financial issues be discussed with a tax attorney, CPA, or financial planner. The Lottery cannot refer any individual professionals; however, if you don't personally know anyone, the following associations are a good starting place.

- The Lawyer Referral Service, a division of the Maricopa County Bar Association may be reached at (602)257-4434, or their website is www.maricopabar.org, click on Find a Qualified Attorney.
- The Arizona Bar Association's website is www.azbar.org, click on Find a Certified Specialist, then click on either Tax Law or Estate and Trust.
- The Arizona Society of CPA's website is www.ascpa.com; click on Find a CPA. If you do not have a computer, their phone number is (602)252-4144.
- To practice in Arizona, a CPA must be licensed with the Arizona State Board of Accountancy. Their website is www.azaccountancy.gov, click on Licensee Directory. Their phone number is (602)364-0804.
- The Financial Planning Association maintains a database of CFP professionals in the State of Arizona. Their website is www.PlannerSearch.org. Their phone number is 1-800-322-4237.

To make sure your planner is in good standing, the Certified Financial Planner's Board of Standards website CFP® enables you to search the name of the licensee and check the planner's disciplinary background. Their website is www.cfp.net or call 1-800-487-1497.