Advice for Winners

- You may want to seek the advice of a financial professional concerning management options for your winnings.

- It is advisable to check an advisor's credentials and complaint record before you hire him or her. Websites that may be helpful for this are: www.flofr.com, www.sec.gov, www.finra.org, and www.bbb.org.

- Some winners have reported being solicited by charities. If you want information about any charity, you can contact the Florida Department of Agriculture on their Web site at: www.800helpfla.com or by telephone at (800) 435-7352.

- To research any charity, visit the Web site: www.Charitynavigator.org.

- The Florida Office of Attorney General also has information on consumer protection and citizen safety available at: www.myfloridalegal.com or by calling the Citizen Services Hotline: (866) 966-7226.

- Florida Lottery winners may be at risk of identity theft. Careful control of your personal and banking information, as well as frequent review of your credit reports will help prevent identity theft. There are several providers that offer this service. A link to this information is also available at: www.myfloridalegal.com under the Consumer Protection tab.

- Due to the publicity that surrounds Florida Lottery winners, it may be necessary to review and evaluate your personal/family security measures.

- Consider installing a home alarm system if you do not have one. There are a variety of companies that offer coverage for a reasonable cost.

- Consider placing your telephone number(s) on the Federal No Call List, (888) 382-1222, and the state No Call List, (800) 435-7352, or obtaining an unlisted telephone number.

- Beware of schemes to defraud. Please remember the best advice – "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is". There are several excellent consumer protection sites on the Web that provide information on the latest frauds and scams. Sites that may be helpful and informative are: www.ftc.gov, www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com, elder.law.stetson.edu, and www.flalottery.com/security.do.