



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**DUBLIN, IRELAND**  
**42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge**

**U.S. Embassy Dublin Issues Caution About Diversity Visa Email Scams**

The U.S. Embassy in Dublin advises residents of Ireland about a widespread Diversity Visa (DV lottery) scam and to use caution when working with private entities to apply for visas to the United States. Reports of fraudulent emails, websites, and print advertisements offering visa services are on the rise. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should anyone send any money to any address for participation in the DV Lottery.**

One widespread DV lottery scam email instructs recipients to send money via Western Union to a fictitious person at the U.S. Embassy in London. If you have received this email, you have been targeted by con artists. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should anyone send any money to any address for participation in the DV Lottery. The Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) does not/not send email notifications to DV entrants informing them of their winning entries.**

**Successful DV-2011 applicants already have been notified by KCC by letter, not by email.**

DV-2011 entrants also can check the status of their entries at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> until June 30, 2011. **Entrants will not be asked to send money to the KCC or any U.S. embassy or consulate.**

Entrants who completed the online DV-2012 entries will not receive notification letters from KCC. Rather, they must check the status of their entries themselves through the Entrant Status Check available at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> between May 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012.

Many private websites offer legitimate services to assist individuals in applying for visas, but some illegitimate entities claim to provide "visa services" as a cover for scams or identity theft. Some of these websites may attempt to charge a fee for providing forms and information about immigration procedures that are available to the public at no charge on the Department of State ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) and [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) websites, or through the U.S. Embassy website at [dublin.usembassy.gov/](http://dublin.usembassy.gov/).

**The only official way to register for the DV program is directly through the official U.S. Department of State website during the specified, limited-time registration period.**

The DV program offers up to 55,000 visa slots annually for people who wish to apply for immigration to the United States. **Applicants selected in the random drawing are notified**

**by the U.S. Department of State and are provided with instructions on how to proceed to the next step in the process.** No other organization or private company is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to notify DV program applicants of their winning entries or the next steps in the process of applying for their immigrant visas. Anyone who wishes to apply for a U.S. visa should use caution before sending via email any personal information such as credit card and bank account numbers.

Images of U.S. emblems such as flags, eagles, monuments, or official seals do not necessarily indicate a U.S. Government website. **A domain name of “.gov” ensures that a website is a legitimate U.S. Government site where the information is free and up-to-date.**

Complaints about unwanted emails that may be scams can be sent to the U.S. Department of Justice at [www.usdoj.gov/spam.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/spam.htm).

**If you require further information, please contact:**

The Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Embassy Dublin  
Office: 353-1-668-8777 x2104