

## Dating My Daughter Rules:

**RULE ONE:** If you pull into my driveway and honk, you had better be delivering a package, because you're sure not picking anything up.

**RULE TWO:** You do not touch my daughter in front of me. You may glance at her, so long as you do not peer at anything below her neck. If you cannot keep your eyes or hands off my daughter's body, I will remove them.

**RULE THREE:** I am aware that it is considered fashionable for boys your age to wear their trousers so loosely that they appear to be falling off their hips. Please do not take this as an insult, but you and your friends are complete idiots. Still I want to be fair and open minded about this issue, so I propose this compromise: You may come to the door with your underwear showing and your trousers ten sizes too big, and I will not object. However, in order to ensure that your clothes do not, in fact, come off during the course of your date with my daughter I will take my electric nail-gun and fasten your trousers securely in place to your waist.

**RULE FOUR:** I am sure you have been told that in today's world, sex without utilizing a "barrier method" of some of some kind can kill you. Let me elaborate, when it comes to sex I am a barrier, and I will kill you.

**RULE FIVE:** It is usually understood that in order for us to get to know each other, we should talk about sports, politics, and other issues of the day. Please do not do this. The only information I require from you is an indication of when you expect to have my daughter safely back at my house, and the only word I need from you on the subject is "early."

**RULE SIX:** I have no doubt you are a popular fellow with many opportunities to date other girls. This is fine with me as long as it okay with my daughter. Otherwise, once you have gone out with my little girl, you will continue to date no one but her until she has finished with you. If you make her cry, I will make you cry.

**RULE SEVEN:** As you stand in my front hallway, waiting for my daughter to appear, and more than an hour goes by, do not sigh and fidget. If you want to be on time for a movie, you should not be dating. My daughter is putting on makeup, a process that can take longer than painting the Golden Gate Bridge. Instead of just standing there, why don't you do something useful, like changing the oil in my car?

**RULE EIGHT:** The following places are not appropriate for a date with my daughter. Places where there are beds, sofas, or anything softer than a wooden stool. Places where there no parents, policemen, or Nuns within eyesight. Places where there is darkness. Places where there is dancing, holding hands, or happiness. Places where the temperature is warm enough to induce my daughter to wear shorts, tank tops, midriff T-shirts, other than overalls, sweater, and a goose-down parka zipped up to her throat. Movies with a strong romantic or sexual theme are to be avoided; movies which feature chain-saws are okay. Hockey games are okay. Old Folks Homes are better.

**RULE NINE:** Do not lie to me. I may appear to be a pot-bellied, balding, middle-aged, dim-witted has-been. But on issues relating to my daughter, I am the all-knowing, merciless "God" of your universe. If I ask you where you are going and with whom, you have the chance to tell me the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I have a shotgun, a shovel and five acres behind the house. Do not trifle with me.

**RULE TEN:** Be afraid. Be very afraid. It takes very little for me to mistake the sound of your car in the driveway for a "chopper" (Helicopter), coming in over a rice paddy near Hanoi. When my "Agent Orange" starts acting up, the voices in my head frequently tell me to clean the guns as I wait for you to bring my daughter home. As soon as you pull into the driveway you should exit your car with both hands in plain sight. Speak the perimeter password, announce in a clear voice that you have brought my daughter home safely and early, then return to your car—there is no reason or need for you to come inside. The camouflaged face at the window is mine.

# How Scam Charity Victims End Up on a Sucker List – And What You Can Do to Avoid This

Have you ever given money to a scam charity, only to discover not only that your money has gone to an unworthy cause but also that other crooks seem to have got wind of your generosity and are after you for a slice of the action?

Or maybe you know someone who is convinced they've really won a lottery payout this time, even though they previously fell for exactly the same sort of scam and lost a small fortune trying to collect it.

If either of these types of incidents applies, chances are that you (or your friend or relative) have your name on a sucker list.

## Sucker List?

Time for a quick history lesson:

Back in 1941, a movie called Sucker List told how fraudulent racetrack touts would repeatedly target the same victims with phony race tips that would entice them into betting bigger and bigger sums until they were financially cleaned out.

Even earlier, in 1923, an investment con used a similar approach, offering to buy a victim's stock in a certain company for way more than its value.

The catch was that the "buyer" would only purchase say 1,000 shares, while the victim only owned 100. Then, "by coincidence" the victim would get an opportunity to buy the 900 shares he needed from a mystery seller at a knockdown price.

He'd buy, then go back to his "purchaser" to complete the deal. But suddenly, the "purchaser" would only deal for 2,000 shares. And so on.

You get the picture. This con was known as "reloading" and it was based on the same idea of repeatedly returning to the same victim for more money.

Sad to say, decades later, this type of repeat crime has become increasingly common, based on the notion that consumers who have been tricked once are likely to fall for another scam. So their names go onto a sucker list.

These lists are traded and exchanged between criminals. And they often contain a startling amount of detail—not just your name, address and phone number, but perhaps also details of your savings and your ability to lay your hands on more cash if needed.

If you've ever been seriously scammed, chances are your name could be on one.

## How Do You Know if You're on a Sucker List?

You'll probably know if you (or a friend or relative) are on a sucker list by the volume of solicitations received every day.

We all get spam, junk mail and telemarketing calls, but if you get the sort that seek money—from scam charity groups, lottery organizations, Nigerian bankers and questionable health product vendors—all the time (maybe dozens a day), then you are probably being targeted.

Perhaps not surprisingly, older folks, particularly those in their 80s and 90s, are key targets for repeat scam charity requests and other money-spinning tricks.

Internet news pages are littered with distressing stories of people who discovered their aged parents have been handing over money left, right and center for all manner of non-existent causes or rubbish products.

Worse still, in some cases, the victims refuse to accept they've been tricked and become secretive as another scam charity or lottery win appears on the horizon.

(If you are interested to hear a lottery scam artist at work, listen to this recording from the Seattle Times:

[http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=5EIG\\_fTVo6l7G\\_Y46LB8w](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=5EIG_fTVo6l7G_Y46LB8w))

Unfortunately, once you (or someone dear to you) get onto a sucker list, there's little you can do to get off it other than by persistently ignoring the scam charities and others to the point where the crooks lose interest in you.

But there are a number of actions you can take to try to ensure that happens or that your/their name doesn't get onto a sucker list in the first place.

## How to Avoid Getting on a Sucker List:

- You haven't won a lottery or inherited a fortune, so don't respond to claims you have. You can find more on lottery scams and on secret fortunes, better known as Nigerian scams, below.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=nbp7TMiPHQF2XTXzS9N3fw>

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=i7CgEiGO2OiUQjbC7fk6.Q>

- To avoid scam charity groups, check out any organization seeking donations. For lists, visit the Wise Giving Alliance or the American Institute of Philanthropy or check if they are licensed with your state.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=gXKKzTR6CZQkfiAjedLt0Q>

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=VbX.preM7V2co4dBY3Y0DQ>

You can also see if the organization is registered as a 501(c)(3) charity with the IRS.

[http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=\\_51jaq3JSyfbL9899QWxBQ](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=_51jaq3JSyfbL9899QWxBQ)

For more on charity scams, see these Scambusters issues.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=LIGc2brJJOA9uCfNI6UgEw>

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=AmNFTWBr37CyLw5nwgUS3A>

- Report bogus mail solicitations to the Postal Inspection Service.

[http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=T5eq\\_TkRwcNK8vDqBOIWva](http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=T5eq_TkRwcNK8vDqBOIWva)

- Ensure you are registered on all mail and telemarketing opt-out or do-not-call lists. See this Federal Trade Commission (FTC) site for more info.

<http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=AZQu4&m=1ZSNaHdXt0tWfo&b=5euhbLShRuVcDwaPvwdmbw>

- Install anti-spam software on your PC or set up a spam filter in your email program. If you don't know how to do this, seek advice from a computer-knowledgeable person.
- If you are truly being bombarded, consider changing your e-mail address and/or phone number, and keep them confidential/unlisted.
- Above all, do not respond to any solicitations for money that come from someone you don't know.

If you suspect a friend or relative may be on a sucker list used for charity scams, bogus lotteries and other cons, you may get a hint from their behavior.

If they seem to be secretive or to be regularly acquiring magazine subscriptions, online health medications, trinkets or other novelties, or withdrawing or spending large sums of money, tactfully ask about them.

Whether or not this is happening, take the time to explain about charity scams and other tricks and tell them about sucker lists. They may not want to hear (and certainly won't want to be labeled as "suckers") but persist.

In the case of close relatives who continue to hand over money for dubious causes, you might be able to persuade them to let you review their mail and to not make payments without consulting you.

In limited cases, it is possible to take legal action for what is called conservatorship or durable power of attorney, which enables you to monitor or control their spending. You should speak to an attorney about this.

The sad thing is that some people, who might otherwise consider their lives to be dull, enjoy the "excitement" of chasing elusive lottery wins (that the rest of us know are bogus).

A widely-practiced, sneaky trick, for example, is to tell a victim they've won a lottery but for an additional payment they'll be entered for an even bigger prize.

Of course, they "win" that too and can then go on to the next level for another fee. And on it goes, with victims borrowing, maxing their credit cards and even mortgaging their homes in their attempt to land the big one.

Don't let that be you—or anyone you care about.

The reality is that you don't have to be a sucker to get on to a sucker list or become the repeated target of a charity scam. But you do have to work darned hard to escape. However, you can do it!

But better yet, by subscribing to Scambusters and by telling people you care about to subscribe as well, you can learn about scams BEFORE you become a victim. That's a much better approach.

Go to: [www.scambusters.org](http://www.scambusters.org) to sign up and also learn about scams dealing with Haiti charities found at:

[www.scambusters.org/haitiearthquakescams.html](http://www.scambusters.org/haitiearthquakescams.html) 🇧🇱