

## 06/30/2023: Ticket Scams



As the excitement of attending concerts, sporting events, or similar activities build up, so does the risk of falling victim to fake ticket scams. These scams not only waste your hard-earned money but can also ruin your plans and leave you disappointed. We've put together some tips to help safeguard your finances and ensure that your experience is memorable in all the best ways.

- **Purchase from Authorized Sources:** When buying tickets, always opt for authorized sellers or official websites. Be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true, as they often turn out to be scams. Authorized sources offer legitimate tickets and have systems in place to protect buyers from fraud.
- **Verify the Seller:** If you decide to buy tickets from resellers or online marketplaces, it's important to research and verify the credibility of the seller. Look for customer reviews, ratings, and feedback from previous buyers. Again, reputable platforms almost always have buyer protection measures in place.
- **Use Secure Payment Methods:** Protect your financial information by using secure payment methods when purchasing tickets. Trusted payment platforms will offer buyer protection along with the ability to dispute unauthorized charges. Never use wire transfers, prepaid or gift cards, person to person transfer services, or cryptocurrency for ticket purchases as these methods offer little to no recourse in the case of fraud.
- **Be Wary of Urgency and Limited Offers:** Scammers often create a sense of urgency or scarcity to pressure buyers into making impulsive decisions. Beware of sellers who insist on immediate payment, claim to have limited-time offers, or attempt to rush you into a transaction. Legitimate sellers will typically allow a reasonable amount of time for you to research before making a decision.
- **Double-Check Ticket Details:** Before Finalizing a ticket purchase, carefully review the event details including the date, time, venue, seat numbers, and any additional terms and conditions. Counterfeit tickets may contain errors or inconsistencies, so ensure the information matches the official event details provided by reliable sources.
- **Avoid Unsecured Websites and Suspicious Links:** When searching for tickets online, stick to reputable websites and avoid clicking on suspicious links. Fraudulent websites may mimic official selling platforms, leading you to provide personal and financial information unknowingly. Always look for secure website indicators like <https://> in the URL along with the padlock symbol.
- **Stay Informed About Common Scams:** Educate yourself about common scams so you'll recognize warning signs. Some popular scams include ticket lottery schemes, "free" ticket offers that require personal information, and ticket purchases through unverified social media accounts. By staying informed, you can identify red flags and protect yourself from falling victim to these and other popular scams.