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Participate in Sweepstakes with Caution by John M. Danis

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Sweepstakes are online contests that allow people to participate and win prizes. These contests are often classified by age, interest, products and even value of the prizes. The prize involved in the sweepstakes can vary from a small amount to thousands of dollars depending upon the contest and the organization launching it. In some high-end prizes the winner may need to pay taxes. Therefore, it is important to understand the process beforehand than to win the prize and then suffer the disappointment realizing that you cannot afford to pay the taxes.

Some sweepstakes ask you to test products and send feedback to receive prizes or cash. To enter such contests, you need to provide demographic information and then you will receive invitations via email. Participant must read the terms and conditions mentioned in the email to understand what kind of prize is being offered and the conditions applied.

It is important for the player to understand that Internet sweepstakes come with an array of complicated rules and laws. Since many sweepstakes operate over multiple countries, it is important to understand the rules applicable in your country before entering any sweepstakes. A legitimate sweepstakes will always list all the terms and conditions, odds of winning, the process to enter and how to get a list of winners clearly.

Businesses often introduce sweepstakes in order to increase traffic to their website. Some sweepstakes contest asks the participants to enter their email addresses. Thus the companies build a database of prospective customers and use them for future promotional activities. Some companies even sell these databases to other companies. Therefore, you must read the fine-print of the sweepstakes rules before giving away your email address.

It is always wise to play Internet sweepstakes safely. Amidst the crowd of legitimate sweepstakes, there are many scams as well. Such scams often ask you to pay a very small amount to participate in their contest. Once you pay the money online, they will steal your bank account and other personal information. Therefore, it is very important to be careful before entering any personal information or making any payment.

Some fraud companies often show their country different from where they really operate. They are successful in doing so because it is difficult to find real location through Internet. Avoid sweepstakes companies that ask for a fees or purchase from their store to become a part of the contest. It is even illegal in some countries to ask for purchase to participate in sweepstakes. Sweepstakes can be regarding but only when played with caution.

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