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HEADLINES

Families Outraged After Illinois Fails to Pay Out \$288 Million in Lottery Winnings

by Inside Edition 5:00 PM EDT, October 16, 2015



Lottery winners in Illinois may have hit the jackpot - but they have not been paid (<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/9929-why-cant-this-lottery-winner-collect-his-1-million>).

The state recently announced that it was not paying out any winnings worth more than \$600 until its budget crisis is resolved - but it's still running TV ads promoting the lottery.

An attorney representing some of the winners, Tom Zimmerman, has said there is a staggering \$288 million in winnings waiting to be paid out.

Read: Fraudster Lotto Official is Now Accused of Rigging Other Games (<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/12336-fraudster-lottery-official-is-now-accused-of-rigging-other-games>)

One winner, Susan Rick, told INSIDE EDITION: "We won (<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/8925-lottery-winning-waitress-im-not-quitting>). We finally can have a comfortable life. Suddenly you're gonna the rug out from underneath us. We had a ticket for \$250,000."

A group of Chicago city employees had joined a lotto pool and won a million dollars

(<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/11719-bartender-buys-lottery-ticket-with-20-he-found-on-the-ground-wins-1-million>) - but they still haven't seen a penny of it either.

Rhonda Rasche, a 49-year-old hospital clerk, said that after winning \$50,000 in a scratch-off lotto, officials told her she'd receive a check in the mail in four to six weeks. That was a few months ago.

"I've been waiting for a check for \$50,000," she said.

Read: [Lotto Winner Blew Through \\$27 Million, Leaves Daughter Broke](http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/8223-lottery-winner-blows-through-27-million) (<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/8223-lottery-winner-blows-through-27-million>)

Rhonda has joined the other lotto winners (<http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/6066-lottery-winners-share-the-wealth>) who are suing to get their money.

Zimmerman, their attorney, said: "If any private business would engage in this kind of conduct selling tickets and not paying out the winner. The state would shut them down and indict them for fraud."

Watch Below: Couple Surprised with \$97,000 From Unclaimed Life Insurance Policy

(<http://www.insideedition.com/treasures/12076-man-discovers-hes-owed-97000-from-his-late-moms-unclaimed-life-insurance-policy>)

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