

# ALL EMAIL USERS:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHAIN EMAILS AND LETTERS

From: Federal Trade Commission  
To: Email users  
Date: February 2002  
Subject: Chain emails and letters

- ⇒ Chain letters that involve money or valuable items and promise big returns are illegal. **If you start a chain email or letter or send one on, you are breaking the law.**
- ⇒ Chances are you will receive little or no money back on your “investment.” Despite the claims, **a chain letter will never make you rich.**
- ⇒ Some chain letters try to win your confidence by claiming that they’re legal, or even that they’re endorsed by the government. Nothing is further from the truth.
- ⇒ If you’ve been a target of a chain email scam, contact your Internet Service Provider and forward the email to the FTC at: [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov).

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357), or use the complaint form at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

**Please post this notice near computers.**