

SCAM REPORT
MILTON TOWNSHIP S.A.L.T. COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 12, 2023

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Counterfeit U.S. Postage Stamps Scam

The US Postal Service (USPS) is seeking to increase the price of first-class mail postage stamps from 63 cents to 66 cents. If approved, the new price would take effect July 9, 2023.

The pending increase in postal rates has fueled the creation of bogus websites offering counterfeit stamps at significant discounts. To entice unsuspecting buyers, the stamps are offered for sale at 20 to 50 per cent of their face value. Though the websites look real and include USPS logos and images of official postal vehicles, the sites are bogus. Many of the sites are operated by criminals based in other countries and frequently contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Further information to help you stay safe

- In addition to fraudulent websites, counterfeit stamps are offered for sale on social media platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.
- The two most-common counterfeit stamps are the American flag and starburst “Forever” stamps. The starburst stamp is also known as the spiral stars stamp. These stamps are illustrated below.
- Stamps offered for sale online at significant discounts should always be viewed with caution. These are likely counterfeit stamps being sold by fraudsters.
- If you use a credit card to purchase counterfeit stamps online, scammers will use the card information you provided to purchase expensive items and charge them to your account. If this should happen to you, the incident should be reported immediately to the card issuer and your local police department.
- If you purchase counterfeit stamps and use them in the US mail, you are breaking the law and could be charged with a federal crime.
- To ensure stamps are genuine, they should be purchased only from the following sources:
 - USPS facility (your local post office)
 - USPS website (www.usps.com)
 - Approved Postal Provider™ (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, office supply stores, banks)
- If you purchased counterfeit stamps or are aware of counterfeit stamps offered for sale, file a report with the United States Postal Inspection Service at www.uspis.gov/report.

[Sources: USPIS, USCBP]



“Forever” flag stamp



“Forever” starburst stamp