

# Be on the lookout for email scams

*Dan McCaffery - October 2025*

Good news!

My long lost relative, Robert Mccaffery, has left me almost five million British pounds, or over \$6 million American dollars, or about \$9.1 million Canadian.

I'd never heard of the late Bob until last month and he spelled his name slightly differently than me. His second 'c' is lower case, while mine is upper case. But hey, that's just a technicality.

It turns out he left his vast fortune to me after he and his wife and two children died in an Indonesian earthquake during a 2021 family vacation.

I'd never have known any of this if I hadn't received a letter from someone claiming to be a British lawyer, providing me with the sad details of Bob's demise and the happy news about my inheritance.

The lawyer is pretty sure he has the right Dan McCaffery because, he said, our last names are the same and we share the same nationality. Which are strange things to claim because, as I pointed out earlier, our last names are spelled differently. And I'm a Canadian. Bob was an Englishman. Or at least he worked for something called "Energy Company" in the United Kingdom. Energy Company must pay very well if its employees can take family vacations in Indonesia. Not to mention have more than \$9 million hanging around to leave in his will to someone on another continent that he had never met.

Still, you can't look a gift horse in the mouth. You've got to get on that pony and ride it to the bank.

The only problem is I have to pay the lawyer a substantial fee to get my inheritance. The lawyer kindly explained he needed 25 per cent of the loot to cover his legal services. "I want to assure you that this is 100 per cent risk free and I shall legally represent and assist you in any necessary documentations needed to expedite the process in a highly professional and confidential manner, I will provide all the relevant documents to substantiate your claim as the beneficiary," he wrote. He added, "This claim requires a high level of confidentiality."

Alas, I don't think I can come up with that much money.

Nor will this be the first time I have encountered such a problem. On at least two other occasions I have inherited vast sums of money from some guy in Nigeria. The executors of the wills in those instances would have sent the money to me but first I had to make an up front payment and, just as is the case with Bob's lawyer, I didn't have the cash.

It's hard to believe anyone falls for these scams but they must work from time to time because I have received at least three such notices over the years.

If you get such a letter just throw it away. Don't send any personal information, not even an email address. And whatever you do, don't send any money.