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FROM WELD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH R. BUCK
FOR THE C.A.S.E. PROGRAM

FRAUD ALERT!

DON'T LET YOUR ESCAPE FROM COLD WEATHER PUT YOUR FINANCES IN HOT WATER



If the cold winter weather has you longing for a sunny vacation spot, be sure you plan your trip wisely. Rushing into a vacation deal may leave you high and dry before you even leave home.

When planning a vacation, use reputable businesses. Check the business's track record with the Better Business Bureau and do an internet search for the company's name. In many cases when a business has scammed people, people let the world know by posting their negative experience to blogs or other community input forums available on the web.

Get the details of your vacation arrangements in writing. Make sure you are aware of any cancellation fees and refund policies that the company offers before you commit to purchasing a vacation package. If you do decide to purchase a package, use your credit card. If you have problems with the vacation fees, you can dispute the charges with your credit card company.

If you receive an unsolicited fax for flyer for a great travel deal, view it with skepticism. Promotions for deeply discounted travel packages or free trips can end up costing you lots of money. Discounted packages may charge fee after fee as you make your travel arrangements. Free trips may require a credit card number in order to confirm or book the trip for you. Once you provide your financial information to a company you are at risk of having that information abused. Again, make sure you are dealing with reputable businesses. If you see an advertisement for a travel company that lists only a phone number and no street address, it could be a sign that the business is not legitimate.

Taking a few precautions when planning your vacation to a sunny destination may be all you need to do to prevent getting burned.

Contact your local police agency if you think you are a victim of a crime.
To contact the Weld County District Attorney's Office, call (970) 356-4010 ext. 4702.