



Fraud Alert!

C.A.S.E.

*Churches Against
Senior Exploitation*

Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck
Assistant District Attorney Michael J. Rourke



Curiosity can kill your wallet

BBB and FTC warn of "One-Ring" scams

What is a "One-Ring" scam?

No, it is not something out of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy nor is it involving jewelry.

It is a telephone scam that can end up costing residents large amounts of money just by redialing an unknown number, and The Better Business Bureau and Federal Trade Commission warn one-ring scams are spreading.

Scammers have computer programs that dial thousands of random phone numbers per minute, but in this case the caller (or computer) hangs up after just one or two rings. The idea is to get the caller curious and willing to call back.

But little do unsuspecting residents know, the call is actually going to a foreign number that will charge an up front call fee (\$19.95 or more) plus rates of \$9 or more per minute. Those minutes rack up quickly, especially because a computer answers the call with something generic such as, "Hello, you've reached the operator. Please wait." In the meantime, the bill is adding up.

What can you do?

- Don't fall for the bait. If you don't recognize the number, don't return the call.
- Carefully check your telephone bill each month for these fees.
- If you can't stand the curiosity and decide to call the number, check it out online first. A simple google.com search can often reveal the location of the call.
- Report any fraudulent charges to the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.

**Beware
of these
Area Codes:**

(268)

(284)

(473)

(649)

(664)

(767)

(809)

(849)

(876)

Immediately report to your local police agency if you think you are a victim of crime.

To view other Fraud Alerts, go to www.weldda.com.