



**Weld County
District Attorney's Office
Nineteenth Judicial District**

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Fraud Alert!

WHY PAY FOR INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN OBTAIN FOR FREE?

Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck would like you to take note of the following information so that you aren't the next victim.

As I was wondering what topic to tackle for this month's fraud alert, I heard a short news story about a company leaving fliers—which announce that a sex offender has moved into your neighborhood—on the front doors of Northern Colorado homes. Then, as I was checking my voicemail, I listened to a message from a Weld County resident regarding the very same flier.

The company distributing the fliers, Neighborhood Red Alert based in Colorado Springs, has recently been marketing their services in Northern Colorado. What they seem to be doing is not a scam or a crime, but please know that the information they are selling is already available to you—for free.

The Weld County Sheriff's Office maintains a list of registered sex offenders on their web site at www.weldsheriff.com. This site includes registered sex offenders in Ault, Frederick, Johnstown, LaSalle, Milliken, Pierce, Platteville, Windsor and other areas of Weld County. The Greeley Police Department maintains their own registry at www.greeleypd.com as does the Evans Police Department, which can be found at www.cityofevans.org (both sites are accessible through the Sheriff's Office site, as well).

The thought of living next to a sex offender is scary for everyone, especially parents. But knowledge is power, and the more you know about sexual offend-

ers the safer you—and your family—will be. The information provided on the law enforcement sites is public record, and as stated on the Sheriff's Office site "...is made available for the purpose of protecting the public."

Accessing this information requires responsibility on the user's part, however. Colorado Revised Statute 16-22-1211 (1) prohibits sex offender registry information to be used to inflict retribution or additional punishment upon the registrant.

That being said, look at the sites; pull up your neighborhood or the neighborhood near your child's school. Then go the next step—further educate yourself and your family. The Weld County Sheriff's Office site states, "Most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows...80-95% of sex offenders are known to their victims and include relatives, friends and authority figures." Be involved with your children. Talk to them about their friends, their coaches, their babysitters and then take the initiative to meet the people involved in your child's life. Talk to your kids about what is appropriate behavior to expect from an adult or authority figure (or even from their peers) and what is not. Teach your kids about various warning signs to look out for that indicate someone may be attempting to harm them. It is an uncomfortable subject to talk about, but if you arm your family with knowledge, a few minutes of uncomfortable may save your family years of pain.

**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.**

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