



NOVEMBER 2010

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

FRAUD ALERT!

SWEEPSTAKES SCAM SURFACES



Everyone is well aware that these are difficult economic times. And with the holidays just around the corner, the stress of budgeting and making ends meet is increasing for a lot of hard-working families. Thieves know this too, and they are surfacing with new scams in an attempt to take advantage of you.

On Friday, November 19, 2010, a woman called one of the investigators with the District Attorney's Office to tell him about such a scam. She reported that a man left a message for her stating he was with Publishers Clearing House Global International and she needed to contact him right away. When she returned his call (to an 876 area code, which is in Jamaica) he told her he was going to deliver the \$2.3 million prize that she had just won. First, however, she would need to pay the tax on the winnings and provide him with her bank account number. **A CLASSIC LOTTERY SCAM!**

When our investigator called the man back at the 876 phone number, the man said that the woman had submitted an application for the prize at the Gold Rush Casino in Nevada (which the woman had never been to). When asked more questions about the prize, the con artist hung up on our investigator.

Why is this scam surfacing now? Thieves are hoping that you will believe their story about winning a monetary prize from Publishers Clearing House because two legitimate Publishers Clearing House prizes are scheduled to be given away at the end of December — which con artists hope will make their scam more believable.

According to the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes web site (www.pch.com) "If you receive a telephone call from someone claiming you have won a sweepstakes prize but are asked to send money to claim it -- STOP -- you have not heard from a legitimate sweepstakes company. At Publishers Clearing House we do not notify our contest winners by phone."

**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.**