



Fraud Alert!

C.A.S.E.
*Churches Against
 Senior Exploitation*

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Keep Your Money In the Vault

New Bank “Investigation” Fraud Targets Seniors

A new scam where the con artist pretends to be a police or bank investigator looking into whether bank tellers are stealing money has spread to Northern Colorado.



The scam targets older residents and draws them in with a plea to help authorities uncover a potential theft that never occurred. In fact, the only theft involved is from the bank customer if they agree to help this false “investigator.”

Senior residents from Fort Collins and Greeley have fallen victim to this scheme, losing more than \$11,000 total to the fraudsters in recent months, according to police. Similar scams also have taken thousands of dollars in Kansas and New York.

The fraudsters are finding out enough information to convince the targets that they are legitimately an investigator. They pretend to be calling from the correct bank and have some account information, just enough to appear on the up-and-up.

Prevent Fraud

- Always verify a person’s identity before doing business with them.
- Never reveal personal or financial information over the phone.
- Remember that banks and other financial businesses will never *call you* and ask for personal information. They may ask for it to verify your identity *if you call them*.
- Never send money to collect a prize.

The caller then asks the victim to help with the investigation by withdrawing a large sum of money and meeting the investigator’s “associate” in a nearby parking lot to turn over the cash, with the promise that it will be returned the following day.

A second call offers thanks for helping with the “successful investigation” and arranges a meeting at the bank the following day to return the money. When the customer arrives at the bank, he or she discovers that there was no investigation and the entire call was a ruse to steal money.

If you receive a similar call, do not agree to participate in the “investigation” or withdraw any money from your account. Instead, call the police department or a trusted family member for help. If it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Hang up, and call police.

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.