



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

FRAUD ALERT!

BEWARE OF TELEMARKETING SCAMS ESPECIALLY DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR



During this time of year, you may notice an increase in telemarketing calls as people try to sell goods or ask for charitable donations over the phone. Don't become a victim of fraud, review these tips before purchasing products or donating to a charity over the phone.

Things to remember about telemarketing:

- Fraudulent telemarketers are criminals interested in money not people.
- Good sales people are convincing, but so are good criminals.
- A common thread among telemarketing scams is the demand for payment upfront.
- You should never have to pay to enter or claim a prize from a contest or sweepstakes.
- If payment is required before getting detailed information about the offer, it's likely a scam.

Beware if:

- A telemarketer demands you act immediately or else you will "miss out on the great opportunity/deal."
- A telemarketer refuses to send you written information about their product or charity.
- A telemarketer attempts to guilt you into donating money to their cause.
- A telemarketer insists that you wire money or have a courier pick up your payment.
- A telemarketer refuses to stop calling after you have asked them not to call again.

Give yourself a gift:

- Don't fill out contest entry forms as they are a source of leads for con-artists.
- Check out companies and charities with the Better Business Bureau before agreeing to anything over the phone.
- Screen your calls with an answering machine or caller id.
- Have a plan for speaking with telemarketers. Be polite but firm, and hang up if someone refuses to answer your questions or if you detect a scam.

**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.**