

FRAUD ALERT!



Weld District Attorney

December 2016

2016: Scams in Review

Let's celebrate! We made it through another year! But along the way, did scammers try to bring you down? Perhaps you fell victim to a fraud?

Throughout 2016, our fraud alerts helped identify those scams and prevent future victims. From dishonest repairmen (July 2016) and pesky phone frauds (September 2016) to uncovering the mask on charity scams (October 2016), we're committed to shining a light on scammers to protect our community. Let's take a look at some of the top frauds across America in 2016.

1. Tech Support Scams

Did you receive a call this year about your computer being **damaged** and in need of **immediate** repair? We did. The average victim to this scam lost up to \$1,000.

Note to self: It's extremely rare that a technician would call and ask for money to repair your computer remotely, especially over the phone. Find a local technician to verify and fix any problems you may have.

2. Pets-for-Sale Scams

The promise of cuddly and cute puppies harmed a lot of animal lovers in 2016. Pets, especially little ones, tug at the heart strings of buyers - which is why scammers **LOVE** taking advantage of pet sales. Average loss: \$200 - \$2,000.

Advice: Buy in person. **NEVER** transfer money.



"Unfortunately, scammers won't go away in 2017. They'll likely never go away. But we in the community can become smarter. Ask questions. Be curious. Make sure fraudsters aren't dipping into your wallet."

- Weld District Attorney
Michael Rourke

3. Collection Agency Scams

- We've all experienced this call. The scammer says you're behind on payment and threatens immediate action if you don't cough up the cash.
- Average Loss: \$300 - \$5,000+
- Unless you owe money, block all collection calls.
- Never pay on first contact. If you're not sure, hang up and call the company's phone number listed on the website.