



Fraud Alert!

C.A.S.E. Program – From Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck

Beware Text Messaging Scams

Thousands of people in Colorado recently received a text message claiming to be from Target. The messages claim that the recipient has won a \$1,000 gift card and directs them to a website. This is a scam! The website that the messages send people to is fraudulent.

Once a person is on the site, it asks for personal information such as your address, social security number and more. This information is then used to steal your identity.

1. **Be cautious when responding to unsolicited text messages or e-mails** – If you don't know the number that a text message comes from, it's a good idea not to reply to it, especially if the message contains an offer that sounds too good to be true.
2. **Don't give out your phone number** – Scammers can't get your phone number to begin with if you are careful about who you give it out to. Don't post your phone number online, such as on Facebook or blogs. It's also a good idea not to write your phone number on sweepstakes forms, surveys, or anything else that might get sold to other callers.
3. **If you receive a fraudulent text message** – Call your service provider and ask how to block spam messages (scams and other unwanted content) from your phone. Ask if there is an extra charge before activating the service.

