



**Weld County
District Attorney's Office
Nineteenth Judicial District**

**Kenneth R. Buck - District Attorney
Philip M. Clark - Assistant District Attorney**

Welcome!

September 15, 2005

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the C.A.S.E. (Churches Against Senior Exploitation) program of the Weld County District Attorney's Office. My name is Ken Buck and I am the elected District Attorney for Weld County, Colorado.

During my time in office and throughout my career in law enforcement, I have become disgusted with the scoundrels who exploit senior citizens in our community.

Every day, seniors are exploited and taken advantage of by scam artists in our community. Unfortunately, until now, seniors had no organized way of familiarizing themselves with these issues and in turn, protecting themselves and helping to prevent future problems.

The C.A.S.E. program will help to reduce the victimization of seniors and stop many of these crimes in Weld County.

I hope that your senior population will find these monthly alerts to be helpful and I hope that you'll be able to find somewhere to post or distribute them so they will be seen by as many people as possible.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you. If you do become a crime victim in any way, the best thing you can do is report it! Problems don't disappear if authorities don't find out about them. Contact your local police if you think a crime has been committed. You can also call my office at (970) 356-4010 ext. 4722.

I look forward to working with you on this program in the future and making Weld County a safer place to live.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Buck
Weld County District Attorney



Fraud Alert!

How to Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

Identity theft happens when thieves steal your personal and financial identifying information to impersonate you and steal your money and your good credit very quickly. This is a growing problem in Weld County and there are things you can do to decrease your chances of becoming a victim.

Please carefully read these tips to prevent identity theft.

1. **Shred** everything! Buy a cross-cut shredder to shred all receipts, statements, utility bills, pre-approved credit card offers, and other personal information before throwing it away. Thieves have time on their hands and if these things are not shredded, they will put them back together and steal your information.
2. **Protect** your Social Security number and credit card numbers. Don't print your SSN on checks or give any part of your SSN or credit card number over the phone unless you have initiated the call to a company you are familiar with. Even then, be careful who may be around you listening to you give this information. Always ask why someone needs this information.
3. **Keep** in a safe place, away from where you keep your cards, a record of all of your card numbers, expiration dates and the telephone numbers of each company in case you need to report them lost or stolen.
4. **Open** credit card billing statements and bank account statements promptly and compare charges to your records and receipts. If there are any mistakes, report them over the phone and in writing immediately.
5. **Don't** have boxes of new checks or other documents with identification information delivered to your home. Make arrangements to pick them up at your bank or a secure post office box, as thieves are known for stealing these things out of people's mail boxes.



Fraud Alert!

6. **During** physical credit card transactions, never let your card out of sight.
7. **Be cautious** of people looking over your shoulder when you are using your ATM card. Be sure to keep your PIN to yourself; don't let anyone watch you enter it.
8. **Memorize** your PIN numbers; do not write them down where they could be stolen, especially in the same location as your card. Do not use common numbers or names, including addresses and birthdates as PIN numbers, as they can be easily guessed and stolen.
9. **When** ordering things online or putting your personal information into any kind of website, make sure it is a secure website. You should be able to tell which websites are secure because their URL will start with <https://>. The **s** stands for secure. They will also have a small picture of a pad lock in the bottom right corner of the site. When you click on this pad lock, it will bring up information about the security of the site.

What to Do if You Become a Victim?

1. **File** a police report with your local police agency. Ask for a copy of the report or the report number for future reference. Follow-up with the police agency in writing with a copy of the report and/or the report number.
2. **Notify** your bank and all other credit card companies immediately to put them on alert.
3. **Immediately** close the accounts you know or believe have been tampered with to avoid further losses.
4. **File** your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission online at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.
5. **Contact** the fraud department of all three major credit bureaus immediately to put a fraud alert on your credit report. (Equifax, 1-800-766-0008, Experian, 1-888-397-3742 and TransUnion, 1-800-680-7289).

**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. 4722.**