

**FROM THE OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KENNETH R. BUCK**



Fraud Alert!

RESOLVE TO BETTER PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR IDENTITY



January—the month we make resolutions to improve this, change that, start doing one thing and stop doing another. Please add one more resolution to that list: take steps to better protect your identity. And you can get started quickly with just a few easy steps.

Protect Your Purse or Wallet at All Times

A thief would certainly love to get a hold of the cash you have in your purse or wallet, but they would consider it icing on the cake compared to the other valuables you carry with you daily: credit cards, debit cards, Medicare cards (which list your Social Security Number) even movie rental cards. The numbers associated with your name are more valuable than any amount of cash you may be carrying — treat them as such.

Copy the Contents of Your Wallet

So, you understand how valuable the contents of your wallet are...now make a copy of those contents and file them in a safe place. That's right, now instead of worrying about protecting just one set of information, we are asking you to protect a duplicate set. Why? If your wallet is ever stolen, will you be able to list the contents? Will you have the phone numbers needed to cancel credit cards (the numbers are usually printed on the back of the credit card itself)? The sooner you can identify what exactly was stolen and contact your various financial institutions the better!

Order Your Credit Report and PEBES Statement

Order a free copy of your credit report and check the accounts listed to make sure they are valid accounts opened by you. The number for Equifax is 800-525-6285, the number for Experian is 888-397-3742 and the number for TransUnion is 800-888-4213. Also, call the Social Security Administration (800-269-0271) and order your Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement. If the statement lists income that you didn't earn yourself, it may be a red flag that your identity has been stolen.

Opt Out of Mailing and Calling Lists

Not only will opting out of mailing lists and placing your phone number on "Do Not Call" lists help you protect your identity, it will also make your life a bit easier with less junk mail and fewer disturbing phone calls. To place your number on the Colorado No Call List call 800-309-7041 and for the National No Call List call 800-382-1222. To opt out of mailing lists, call 888-567-8688.

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.