



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

**Kenneth R. Buck - District Attorney  
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# Fraud Alert!

## A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE CAN GO A LONG WAY

**Weld County District Attorney Kenneth R. Buck would like you to take note of the following information so that you aren't the next victim.**

### **Reminder for the New Year:**

There is a wise saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This couldn't be more true than when speaking about protecting yourself against fraud. A few simple tools and a little bit of knowledge can go a long way toward protecting yourself and your family against crime.

Theft, forgery, schemes, scams...we hear about them daily on the radio, on the television and in the newspaper. It can be overwhelming when you consider all the different ways thieves try to harm you. But how do you keep up to date on the latest crime trends and, more importantly, how to protect yourself from them?

This is where the District Attorney's Office can help. We are available to come to your church or community center and give presentations on Identity Theft and Senior Fraud. We know the best way to fight crime is to prevent crime, and the best way to prevent crime is to share information with the public as to how they can protect themselves. If you would like to schedule a presentation, please call Jennifer Finch at 970-356-4010 ext. 4702. She would be happy to set up a time to speak to your group.

### **Definitions you should know:**

**Skimming:** the most prevalent form of counterfeit fraud whereby a card's magnetic stripe details are electronically copied and put onto another card. This has been known to occur in restaurants and retail stores. (Skimming can also be as simple as someone using a camera phone to photograph the front and back of your card or just writing down the card numbers on a sheet of paper.) The best protection against skimming—swipe your card yourself or follow your card and watch the waiter or retailer swipe it.

**Phishing:** tricking someone, usually through email, into giving confidential information. If you receive an email asking for account information, personal information or passwords, do not reply regardless of how official the email or web site appears. If your bank or retailer has a question about your account or order, they will contact you directly by phone; they won't ask you for your information via email.

**Shoulder Surfing:** looking over a user's shoulder as they enter a password. This is one of the easiest ways of obtaining a password to breach system security. The practice is used wherever passwords, PINs, or other ID codes are used. Be aware of people standing close to you in the check-out line at stores and at ATMs.

**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.**

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**S E R V I C E**