



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

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Fraud Alert!

DON'T LET CROOKS HOLD YOU UP IN YOUR OWN HOME

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.

Beware of telemarketers:

We can lock our doors and windows to protect ourselves from criminals, but thieves can still enter our homes. How? The telephone. Telemarketing scams cost Americans more than \$40 billion dollars annually, and according to the U.S. Department of Justice one out of six consumers fall victim to these scams each year.

Don't be fooled into thinking that only less-educated people fall victim to telemarketing scams. Most of these scams are actually aimed at well-educated, higher-income, socially-active senior citizens. And those who fall victim to these scams are often victimized more than once.

Whether the crooked telemarketer is trying to sell you goods or services, is posing as a representative from a charity, or is announcing that you have won a terrific prize, the goal is the same. They want you to divulge your personal identifying information such as social security numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, etc.

Many times those who fall victim to the scam and provide this information are hit again, by the same scammer, offering to help the victim recover from the previous scam—and the nightmare starts all over again.

Protect Yourself

Telemarketers who rip off consumers are committing a crime. Report them to your local law enforcement agency and the state attorney general's office. You can also contact the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint against suspicious calls you receive.

Sign up for the no-call registries. You need to sign up on both the Colorado No Call List (1-800-309-7041) and the National No Call List (1-800-382-1222). There is no charge to sign up on either list.

If you have any doubts regarding the legitimacy of the person calling or the organization they claim to represent, ask them for the business name, address and phone number. Tell them you will call back if you are interested.

Ask the caller to mail you written information about their business or charity. If they are legitimate, they will be happy to do so. If they are trying to scam you, they will probably hang up.

Most importantly, don't be bullied. These scam artists are great at first trying to be your friend in order to get what they want, then trying to make you feel guilty for not purchasing their products or donating to their charity. If neither of those tactics work, they can become angry and aggressive in a last ditch effort to get your personal information from you. Remember, you always have the option to just hang up the phone.

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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