

August 15, 2012



# Fraud Alert!

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

## Online Dating Scam Hits Weld County

Weld County District Attorney Ken Buck is warning people who use online dating sites to beware of a recently reported scam that's designed to get users to give up their personal information and wire money.

A woman in the Greeley area was recently contacted through the website POF.com, also known as Plenty of Fish, a primarily free online dating site. A person posing as a male in the "Special Operations" military community contacted the victim and began communicating with her via the website.

The male told the woman that he could not communicate with her by phone because of his sensitive military position. He also provided her with a single photo, which was also posted on a Facebook page that the man claimed was his own – although the page contained only one photo and one Facebook "friend."

At one point, the male told the victim that he wanted to make her his beneficiary and asked for her date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license and other personal information. The male sent the woman flowers and candy to her home address, making the connection feel more real. He then said that he needed money for special training and travel expenses. The victim was told to use Western Union to wire \$1,700 to another female who was part of his "secret operation." He also told the victim not to contact the woman who was receiving the money.

After the victim wired the funds, the male continued to ask for more money. The victim eventually became suspicious and called police. The Investigative Unit of the Weld County District Attorney's Office is currently pursuing leads in the case.

### Tips for online dating:

- \*Never give out your Social Security number online
- \*Limit the amount of other personal information that you provide – It could be used to steal your identity
- \*Never wire money to someone you don't know – Once the money is sent, it's gone forever
- \*Immediately contact local authorities if you believe you are the victim of a scam
- \*You can also report Internet-based crimes through the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center by visiting [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

## POF

INBOX Ultra Match SEARCH ONLINE (388789) FAVORITES

**POF Has More Dates, More Relationships, More Visits Than Any Other Online Dating Site**  
My name is Markus and I designed and built POF and its advanced matching system. This system is now responsible for more dates and more relationships than any other dating site. It was harder for me to build this matching system than it was for me to get cited in the paper through the Nobel Prize of math.

30,000 New Singles Per Day!

Username:

Password:

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Immediately report to your local police agency if you think you are a victim of crime.  
To view other Fraud Alerts, go to [www.weldda.com](http://www.weldda.com).