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FOR THE C.A.S.E. PROGRAM

# FRAUD ALERT!

## 2010 REVIEW: SCAMS THAT SURFACED IN WELD THIS YEAR

During the past year, the District Attorney's Office distributed numerous Fraud Alerts in a continuing effort to increase public awareness about scams and fraud. Some of these alerts have warned consumers about to-good-to-be-true travel deals (*January 2010*) or phone scams that target senior citizens on Medicare (*October 2010*). Other alerts shared information about protecting yourself whether from identity theft in cases of phishing scams (*April 2010*) or from both identity theft and actual theft stemming from information provided in obituaries (*June 2010*). There were even alerts encouraging proactive steps you can take in your home (*February 2010*) and online (*September 2010*) to lessen your chance of falling victim to financial fraud.

There were three scams, however, that hit especially close to home during 2010. Credit card skimming (*November 2010*) once again made the news and reminded us that we can never be too careful when it comes to our credit and debit cards. Skimming occurs when someone copies the information contained on the magnetic strip of your card — essentially making a duplicate of your credit or debit card.



Lottery scams surfaced in our community in several forms. Some people received letters or emails stating they had won a lottery or sweepstakes (*March 2010*). Other people claimed they received phone calls announcing their financial winnings (*November 2010*). In either case, the individual being contacted was told they needed to send money to pay for fees and taxes before the winning funds could be transferred to their account. In these scams, the only person who receives any money is the thief.



The most disturbing scams of the year, however, involved individuals stealing from the very people they were suppose to be caring for (*February 2010*). Whether it is the theft of medications, checks or other personal belongings, individuals requiring assistance from others need to be reminded to take precautions when having someone care for them in their home.

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.  
To view other Fraud Alerts, please go to [www.weldda.com](http://www.weldda.com) and look in the Community Information tab.