



FROM WELD COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY KENNETH R. BUCK  
FOR THE C.A.S.E. PROGRAM

# FRAUD ALERT!

## BEWARE OF TELEMARKETING SCAMS ESPECIALLY DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR



**During this time of year**, you may notice an increase in telemarketing calls as people try to sell goods or ask for charitable donations over the phone. Don't become a victim of fraud, review these tips before purchasing products or donating to a charity over the phone.

### Things to remember about telemarketing:

- Fraudulent telemarketers are criminals interested in money not people.
- Good sales people are convincing, but so are good criminals.
- A common thread among telemarketing scams is the demand for payment upfront.
- You should never have to pay to enter or claim a prize from a contest or sweepstakes.
- If payment is required before getting detailed information about the offer, it's likely a scam.

### Beware if:

- A telemarketer demands you act immediately or else you will "miss out on the great opportunity/deal."
- A telemarketer refuses to send you written information about their product or charity.
- A telemarketer attempts to guilt you into donating money to their cause.
- A telemarketer insists that you wire money or have a courier pick up your payment.
- A telemarketer refuses to stop calling after you have asked them not to call again.

### Give yourself a gift:

- Don't fill out contest entry forms as they are a source of leads for con-artists.
- Check out companies and charities with the Better Business Bureau before agreeing to anything over the phone.
- Screen your calls with an answering machine or caller id.
- Have a plan for speaking with telemarketers. Be polite but firm, and hang up if someone refuses to answer your questions or if you detect a scam.

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.