



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

FRAUD ALERT!

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



Children grow up and start families of their own, relatives move across the country, and friends drift in and out of our daily lives. It's not uncommon for seniors to find themselves surrounded by a significantly smaller support group than they once may have had. Feeling alone is difficult emotionally but isolation can prove to be dangerous.

Caretaker fraud is something we all should be aware of. This type of fraud takes place over time as trust and dependence builds between the senior and the caretaker. In order to accomplish this, a fraudulent caretaker will often isolate the senior from family and friends by intercepting messages and convincing the senior no one is communicating with them; that no one, except the caretaker, really cares about the senior.

A fraudulent caretaker will also attempt to make the senior completely dependent upon them. Whether through buying groceries, cleaning the house, or helping with medications, a fraudulent caretaker wants to become indispensable so the senior feels life without them would be impossible. These two feelings, isolation and dependence, create the perfect opportunity for a thief to commit fraud.

So how can seniors protect themselves from this type of fraud? Ask yourself two questions: Is the caretaker overly interested in your finances? Open financial statements immediately or check accounts on-line often and make sure the transactions are correct. Discrepancies may indicate that someone has fraudulently accessed the account.

Have friends and family been in contact recently? Reach out to family and friends often. If you haven't heard from them in awhile, call them and ask if they have tried to contact you. Whether through phone, email or letters, always maintain communication among family and friends. Remember, you aren't alone.

**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.**