



Fraud Alert!

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

Investment Scams: Protect Yourself Against Online Business Fraud

In today's technological and connected world, it's easier than ever to make investments online. But that also means there are people who will try to take advantage of you by offering phony business deals through e-mails or websites.

It's easy for fraudsters to make business or investment opportunities look legitimate. Here are some things to keep in mind if you are approached with a business deal online:



1. **Be Cautious** – It's a good idea to be skeptical of a business or investment offer that you receive online. Never respond to an e-mail with your bank account or credit card numbers. Instead, ask the person or company to mail you detailed information about the offer, including the terms and conditions. Read that information carefully before committing. Be especially wary if the offer is coming from outside the country.
2. **Research the Offer** – You should never invest in anything you are not absolutely sure about. Do your homework on the investment offer and the company to ensure that they are legitimate. You can find reviews of most legitimate companies through the Better Business Bureau by visiting www.BBB.org.
3. **Flashy Doesn't Mean it's Legitimate** – Never judge a company or a person based on the appearance of their website or e-mail. Flashy websites can be set up quickly by almost anyone. Check out other websites regarding the company or person, and look for reviews posted online about the experiences that other people had with the company.

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.