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FRAUD ALERT!

2009 IN REVIEW



The majority of our 2009 Fraud Alerts provided information not only about fraud prevention but also about protection of your identity and personal property. Throughout the year we shared information regarding: how to better protect your identity as related to the contents in your wallet (*January 2009*); who can and cannot require your Social Security Number (*March 2009*); checking your children's or grandchildren's credit report (in addition to your own) to make sure their identity hasn't been falsely used (*April 2009*); how shredding important documents can help you fight crime in your community (*May 2009*); and the importance for senior citizens to maintain contact with trusted friends and family so as to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of caretaker fraud (*October 2009*).

We also shared details about scams we saw in Weld County during 2009 and provided information to you about how not to fall victim to them. Here are the top three:

The "It's Me, and I Need Help" Scam

This cruel scam preys upon the emotions of family members who are conned into wiring money to thieves posing as family members, usually grandchildren, who are out of the country and in financial trouble. Remember, don't let emotions and panic prevent you from taking time to review the situation. Call other family members to confirm the whereabouts of the person supposedly in trouble because once you wire money out of the country, it's gone! (*February 2009*)

The "Pay Up or Get Arrested" Scam

Once again, this scam preys upon emotion — namely fear. Essentially, you receive a call saying that because of some reason (unpaid credit card debt, failure to appear for jury duty, etc.) there is a warrant out for your arrest. You are told that if you provide personal information (credit or bank account numbers or social security numbers) the problem will be resolved. Do not provide personal information over the phone especially if you did not initiate the call! (*July 2009*)

Telemarketing Scams

Fraudulent telemarketers will try anything to get you to provide them with your personal financial information. Their tactics range from friendliness to guilt to fear to aggression. Hang up the phone. If you think you might be interested in their product or service, check with the BBB and contact the company directly yourself. (*November 2009*)

All of our Fraud Alerts are archived on our web site at www.weldda.com.

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.