

# FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

## Door-to-Door Con Artists Target Elderly

The young lady simply walked into 83-year-old Milton's home in northwest Denver through his unlocked screen door. She said she was a neighbor who had locked herself out of her home and needed \$20 to hire a locksmith. Milton chatted with her and gave her \$20. Only much later did he realize she had stolen two checkbooks from his home.

Mary, also in her 80s, was puttering in her southeast Denver yard when two men stopped to say they were there to fix her roof. After climbing onto her roof and spraying silver paint, they drove Mary to her bank where she withdrew \$2,800 for them.

These traveling con artists hit Denver in late May and early June, preying on elderly homeowners with door-to-door scams. "There is absolutely no reason to let strangers in your home," says Denver DA Mitch Morrissey. The DA's Office advises:

- ✓ Don't do business with door-to-door contractors.
- ✓ Keep all doors, including the garage door, closed and locked at all times, especially when you are outside working in the yard.
- ✓ Install security doors with metal grillwork and key locks instead of latched screen doors.
- ✓ Don't hide keys under the doormat or rocks.
- ✓ Secure sliding glass doors with anti-slide block or slide bolt.



**For more assistance call the  
Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179**

CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the  
community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation

June 2006

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To read more about door-to-door con artists, go to [www.denverda.org](http://www.denverda.org) and click on Consumer Alerts. The DA's Fraud Hot Line is 720-913-9179.