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FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney
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Hang Up On Phone Fraud

December 15, 2007 Telemarketing fraud is a serious problem – and it appears to be growing as our population ages. The Denver DA's Office is aware of two recent foreign lottery and sweepstakes scams.

A Denver resident has sent \$215,000 to Canadian crooks who call him regularly with promises of lottery winnings. The money the victim sends is for "taxes" and other fees. When the victim questioned why he had never received his winnings, the callers were verbally abusive, telling him something might happen to his family if he did not send more money.

Another Denver resident was called by "Publishers Clearing House" with a promise she had won a \$75,000 sweepstakes – which would be delivered to her door. The caller asked that \$250 be wired for taxes, but the woman – who had attended a CASE fraud prevention program - gave the caller the Denver DA Fraud Line on which to call her back. When the telemarketer called us, he stated his company was More Money Winners International out of Nevada. But his area code and his accent were Caribbean. After hanging up, he called the woman to tell her the Denver DA's Office had said he was legitimate – which our office quickly denied.

If you receive a call telling you are winner, remember:

- Ignore all mail and phone solicitations for foreign lottery promotions – it's illegal to play!
- Don't send any money for taxes, fees, or other charges
- Don't give out your credit card and bank account numbers
- If you respond to just one foreign lottery or fraudulent sweepstakes offer, you've opened the door to many more bogus offers
- If you send money, you will likely never get it back
- If you want to get rid of a bothersome telemarketer, give them the
\Denver DA Fraud Line – 720-913-9179!

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Need help or have a question?
Call the Denver DA Fraud Line: 720-913-9179