



# DenverDA

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## This Week is National Consumer Protection Week!

In recognition of National Consumer Protection Week, The Denver District Attorney's Office has compiled the following list of common frauds and scams. As we know, awareness is an important first step toward preventing these types of crimes. The list includes warning signs to look for, as well as safeguards to consider:

**ID Theft:** All personal and financial information such as credit cards, checks and ID's containing Social Security numbers should be kept in a travel pouch when out and about. Never leave your purse or billfold in your car. Shred all financial documents you wish to discard, and mail bills directly from the post office. Never give out personal or financial information over the phone or through email, unless YOU initiate the contact.

**Investment Fraud:** Be wary of claims of "guaranteed", or "high" rates of return, and thoroughly check out all offers. Don't be rushed into a decision. Make certain the security you're interested in is registered, and the license of your financial advisor is up to date. Carefully review your financial statements and look for signs of unauthorized or excessive trading.

**Sweepstakes, Lottery Scams:** Chance winnings don't just happen – you must "pay to play" a lottery by purchasing a ticket in advance. Likewise, you must enter a sweepstakes in order to win. Beware of any email or call claiming you have won, but must first wire money to cover taxes and fees. The latter is illegal in Colorado.

**Door-to-Door Fraud:** Never do business with door-to-door contractors who use high pressure, or scare tactics to close a deal. Beware of bargain-price offers on "left-over materials" and don't let strangers into your home, no matter who they claim to be. City inspectors do not go door-to-door, and reputable businesses have no need to. Always get three bids when considering home improvement work.

**Caregiver Fraud:** If you, or a loved one receives care from a caregiver, stranger, or family member, or if you have a representative payee, power of attorney or other advisor who manages your finances, insist on receiving copies of all financial statements. No matter how much you know, love or trust a person, never sign documents you have not read or do not understand.



**The Denver DA Fraud Hotline: 720-913-**

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**March, 2011**