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For information about fraud and scams or to schedule a presentation about fraud related issues and prevention contact:

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Consumer Advisory

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Have you received a "free" airline travel voucher in the mail?

Or a "VIP Invitation" to a "Special Lunch Event"?

Does your invite suggest that you are one of the special few? *"This is a great opportunity to join an exclusive members-only vacation club, just come to this short, lunchtime presentation. There's no obligation!"*

A friend of mine just received a direct mail piece saying she has qualified for a \$100 Southwest Airlines Gift Card. Knowing it was a scam or something that would require her to pay something for, well... nothing; I called to find out the truth. I spoke to a fast-talking, hard-selling fella who suggested that she come for an "open event, punch and cookies and only 60-90 minutes of her time." When I refused, he pressed on and on (and on).

False or deceitful claims such as these mislead and financially injure consumers throughout the nation. Customers are solicited by an individual or a business through mailings, email, and phone calls, promising some sort of prize (airline tickets, free vacation, gift certificate, iPad, etc.)

But a "free prize" might not actually be free...or a prize.

Marketing gimmicks such as these may require attendance at a presentation, enticing customers with vouchers or prizes with the knowledge that they will be nearly impossible to use. Other times, salespeople entice customers with "deals" or incentives that are only available that day. These incentives may include a buy-back guarantee promising a full membership fee refund if the consumer is not satisfied.

There are numerous forms that this scam can take – a phone call, a lunchtime presentation, or a meeting - However, if a person uses high-pressure sales tactics to push you, be aware: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Protect Yourself:

- Never pay anything for a "free prize"
- Beware of offers that require registration or membership fees
- Read the fine print! Never sign a contract if you are unsure
- Do not rush into any [financial] agreement. Take time to think about your decision
- If you think you have been a victim of fraud, call our DA Fraud Hotline

Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179