

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

Telemarketing/Internet Fraud Losses Increase

The National Fraud Information Center/Internet Fraud Watch reports that losses from telemarketing fraud rose 47% in 2005 and Internet fraud losses more than doubled.

Wire transfers (i.e., Western Union) have become the most common way scammers get money from victims, especially: fake checks received in the mail, lotteries, advance fee loans, sweepstakes, and Nigerian money offers. "Any request to wire money should set off alarm bells," said Denver DA Mitch Morrissey. "If that's part of the deal, it's a scam."

Nigerian money offers were the most expensive Internet scam at a \$7,000 average loss per victim. Foreign con artists promise to share their fortunes if you agree to transfer the funds to your bank for safekeeping. These fortunes never, ever exist.

Complaints of phony scholarships and grants soared in 2005. Crooks pretending to represent the U.S. government falsely promise victims free money in exchange for processing fees.

Phishing – when ID thieves trick people into revealing bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, etc. through e-mails or phone calls – showed the strongest increase in fraud among older adults. Magazine sales and sweepstakes scams also showed an increase among older victims.

To Prevent Fraud:

- ✓ **Don't believe promises of easy money;**
- ✓ **Don't give out personal info to anyone calling or e-mailing you;**
- ✓ **Call the Denver DA's Fraud Line for advice or assistance.**



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

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