



A Program with the
Colorado Attorney General
and the AARP Foundation



Colorado Attorney General
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Don't be Fooled this Valentines Day

As February 14th approaches we receive many marketing pitches and eCards relating to Valentines Day. Scammers are all too aware of this and use this opportunity to trick the innocent into divulging their personal and financial information.

One such phishing scam involves an email indicating that the flowers ordered for your loved one won't be delivered without re-entering your credit card information. No one wants their loved one to think they've been forgotten on Valentines Day! But, by clicking the link and entering your credit card number you could find you have a real problem once you get your next statement. Don't do it! Go directly to the florist's website or call them on the phone instead.

A word about eCards

Always use caution when opening eCards on the web. With just one click you could be directed to what appears to be a reputable card company's website. Once there you could be directed to install the latest Flash player in order to view the eCard. Here are three things to take notice of: 1) check the web address. It may be similar but not identical to the real address; 2) is your Flash player truly in need of updating, and 3) if the email message directing you to retrieve your eCard does not have your name on it most likely it went out to millions of people in hopes that a few might fall for this. All of these are red flags. By clicking on the link you could become victim to a 'trojan', a program that can give someone besides you full access to your computer and the files on it. A little caution goes a long way. Don't provide a window into your computer that just anyone can crawl through.

February's Quick tip of the Month: **Never pay money to receive money.**

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