

Watch Out for Health Scams

Don't buy health products or sign up for medical treatments without first consulting your doctor. Buy prescription drugs only from licensed U.S. pharmacies. Otherwise, you could end up with products that are fake, expired or mislabeled – and could be dangerous. For more visit ftc.gov/heath.

Don't Share Medicare Information

Don't give information to anyone who comes to your home or calls you selling Medicare-related products or asking for your information. Only give personal information to doctors or other providers who are approved by Medicare and to people who work with Medicare, like your State Health Insurance Assistance Program or the Social Security Administration (SSA). Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) anytime, if you are not sure if a provider is approved by Medicare. If you lose your Medicare card or it is stolen, call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

Say No to Home Repair Cons

Beware of door-to-door solicitors who offer to repair your home. Don't allow anyone who has contacted you, uninvited, to work on your home. If you do need to hire someone for a project, check with the Colorado Secretary of State and the Better Business Bureau first. Also, check references, and get a written contract that specifies all work/materials required, time frames, and warranties/guarantees. Be sure to get permits. Finally, avoid paying for the whole project up front. Instead, pay 1/3 before, 1/3 halfway through, and 1/3 upon completion.

www.jeffcosheriff.com



As law enforcement professionals, we pledge to serve the Jefferson County community, build trust and confidence, and respond to community needs with:

Integrity

We interact with each other and the community we serve with honesty, dignity, and respect.

Innovation

We respond to the community's needs with vision and initiative, relying on both traditional and non-traditional problem-solving methods.

Partnership

We actively promote a spirit of teamwork and cooperation through open communication and the free exchange of ideas.

Service

We continuously develop our skills and talents to provide top quality, responsive, effective law enforcement services.

Accountability

We ensure judicious management of human, financial, and physical resources.

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

200 Jefferson County Parkway
Golden, CO 80401

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 303.277.0211

Emergency: Dial 911

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S H E R I F F

Scam Prevention



Beware these common scams



Scam Alert!

Every year, scam artists use clever schemes to defraud millions of people. They use phone, email, postal mail, and the Internet to trick victims into sending money or giving out personal information. Con artists can be clever and convincing, but by understanding how their scams work, we can fight back.

Here are some tips to keep you and your loved ones from becoming victims.

Don't Wire Money to Strangers

Don't wire money to strangers or someone you haven't met in person. Keep in mind that wiring money is like sending cash; once it's sent, you can't get it back. Con artists want you to wire money because it's almost impossible to reverse and/or trace.

Never wire money to anyone you don't know and trust, including:

- Anyone who claims you'll go to jail if you don't send the money.
- Sellers who insist on wire transfers for payment.
- An online love interest who asks for money or a favor.
- Someone advertising an apartment or vacation rental online.
- A potential employer or someone who says it's part of your new online job.
- Someone who claims to be a relative or friend in dire straits (often in a foreign jail or hospital) and wants to keep it a secret from the family.

Don't Give Out Financial Information

Don't respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial information. This includes phone calls, emails, texts, or ads. Never click links in an email or call numbers given to you by the caller. Con artists are trying to trick you into giving up your information, and they're very good at pretending to be a financial institution. Instead, hang up and call the number, or use the web address, on the back of your card and/or statement.

Top 10 Scams in Colorado

- 1. Pay-up-or-go-to-jail scams**
- 2. Work from home scams**
- 3. Lottery/sweepstakes scams**
- 4. Family/friend emergency scams**
- 5. Online auction scams**
- 6. Phising (phone)/v-shing (web) scams**
- 7. Romance scams**
- 8. Charity scams**
- 9. Inheritance scams**
- 10. Home repair scams**

*2010 data from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Don't Play a Foreign Lottery

It's easy to be tempted by messages that boast enticing odds in a foreign lottery, or messages that claim you've already won even though you didn't play. Inevitably, you'll be asked to pay "taxes," "fees," or "customs duties" to collect your prize. If you send money you'll never get it back, regardless of what they promise you. Also, it's *illegal* to play foreign lotteries.

Don't Cash a Stranger's Check

Quite often, scammers will send you a very real looking check and then instruct you to wire money back. Don't do it, no matter how convincing the story. The check will bounce, and you'll owe your bank the money you withdrew. By law, banks must make the funds from deposited checks available within a day or two, but it can take weeks to uncover a fake check. It may seem that the check has cleared and that the money is in your account. But you're responsible for the checks you deposit, so if a check turns out to be a fake, you owe the bank the money you withdrew.

Don't Assume Your Accounts are Okay

Read your bills and monthly statements regularly – on paper and online. Scammers steal account information and then run up charges or commit crimes in your name. Dishonest merchants sometimes bill you for monthly "membership fees" and other goods or services you didn't authorize. If you see charges you don't recognize or didn't approve, contact your bank, card issuer, or other creditor immediately. Also, visit www.annualcreditreport.com to check you credit at least once a year – it's *free*.

Beware of "Charities"

Don't give money to charities that are not well established. Pop-up charities probably don't have the infrastructure to get help to the affected areas or people, and they could be collecting the money to finance illegal activity. Check out www.ftc.gov/charityfraud to learn more.