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Government Imposter Scams Spread



Many consumers have received an email or phone call from someone pretending to be from a government agency trying to coerce consumers into giving them money, personal information or both. These imposters use a variety of tactics to get consumers to cooperate, some threaten arrest, legal action, or putting your social security number 'on hold' while others say you've won a lottery or sweepstakes and need to pay 'taxes' or fees in order to receive the winnings. It is important to remember government agencies do not ask consumers to send money or add funds to a prepaid debit card to pay for anything. If you question the legitimacy of a communication that claims to be a government agency, contact the agency directly using information you find in the phone directory or online. [Learn More About Avoiding Imposter Fraud.](#)

Money Smart Week Public Awareness Campaign April 18-25, 2015



The Colorado Attorney General's Office is excited to support Money Smart Week. This public awareness campaign promotes financial education across all age groups. Launched in 2002 by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the program is now active in more than 45 states through national partnerships. "Money Smart Week began as a coordinated effort among a small group of Chicago-area organizations working to promote financial literacy," says Alejo Torres, Senior Outreach Manager at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. "Today, Money Smart Week continues to expand nationally, providing greater awareness of, and access to, personal finance resources for all." Money Smart Week events are open to the public throughout the country on various topics. To learn more about Money Smart Week or to find an event near you visit www.moneysmartweek.org. Follow Stop Fraud Colorado on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for a tip of the day.

How Do You Recognize Your Financial Advisor Is Out for Blood?

In addition to Money Smart Week, April is Financial Literacy Month which focuses on raising public awareness about the importance of financial literacy and the need for financial education in the community. StopFraudColorado.gov is welcoming a new character that asks, "How do you recognize your financial advisor is out for blood?" The shark joins four other animals in helping to educate Coloradans on common scams and how to file fraud reports. [Watch the videos.](#) [Learn About Financial Fraud.](#)



Don't Pay for a Vacation to Nowhere



With winter almost over, are you itching to get out of town? As you search for your perfect getaway, you might come across good-looking vacation rental deals that seem amazing. Unfortunately, some "steals" are posted by scammers trying to steal your money. They'll leave you with a vacation to nowhere. Scammers have plenty of tricks up their sleeves. They create fake websites that look legitimate, using names and logos of real hotels. They post gorgeous photos of homes and condos — real and fake — on property sharing sites. And they know they'll get your attention with super low rental prices. Don't become a victim of these vacation rental scams. [Learn more from the Federal Trade Commission.](#)