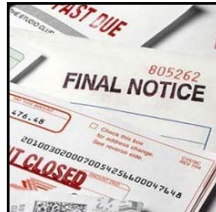


### Top Stories in this Bulletin:



[New Microsite:  
StopFraudColorado.gov](#)



[Beware of Phantom  
Debt Collection Scams](#)



[How Do You Spot An  
Identity Thief?](#)



[Tax Identity Theft  
Awareness Week](#)

### StopFraudColorado.gov Will Help Coloradans Recognize & Report Fraud



One of the most important missions of the Colorado Attorney General's Office is protecting Colorado consumers and businesses from dishonest advertising and unscrupulous behavior. Consumer protection issues have long been the most "clicked through" part of the office's website. So to emphasize its consumer-protection outreach and to meet the demand for timely and credible information on scams and help victims, Attorney General John Suthers announced the launch of a new microsite, [StopFraudColorado.gov](#). [StopFraudColorado.gov](#) makes it easier for Coloradans to learn about common types of fraud, get tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud and streamlines the process for filing fraud reports. [Click here to read more about the new initiative.](#)

### Beware of Phantom Debt Collection Scams



A sharp increase in complaints concerning debt collection scams, particularly those impersonating law enforcement or government agencies, has the Colorado Attorney General warning consumers to be cautious of threatening phone calls and emails from fraudulent debt collectors. While debt collection scams have been prevalent in recent years, the most current schemes often use personally identifiable information, including the last four digits or even full Social Security Numbers. The scams are typically trying to collect on an alleged payday loan debt, using variations of fictitious names that sound similar to well-known payday lenders. [Click here to read more on phantom debt collection scams.](#)

### How Do You Spot An Identity Thief?

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States, as many as one in three Coloradans may be a victim. For many, identity theft is about more than the loss of money. It's about the loss of security and independence as well as the feeling of victimization that comes with such an intrusion. Visit the [Identity Theft Center](#) for tips to help you avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, and to walk you through some important steps for those recovering from an attack. [Click the video to learn more.](#)



### Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week



Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week is January 26-30, 2015. Tax Identity theft happens when someone files a phony tax return using your personal information—like your Social Security Number (SSN)—to get a tax refund. It also happens when someone uses your SSN to get a job or claims your child as a dependent on a tax return. Tax identity theft has been the most common form of identity theft reported to the FTC for the past five years. It isn't the only way scammers are targeting taxpayers. Thousand of complaints about IRS imposters who claim people owe unpaid taxes and will be arrested if they don't pay have been reported. Callers may know all or part of your SSN, and rig caller ID to make it look like it's really the IRS calling. Before you can investigate, you're told to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the number—something no government agency would ask you to do. [Click here to learn more about Tax Id Theft.](#)

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