

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

Beware Medicare Telephone Scams

The Denver District Attorney's Office has received reports from local seniors who were called by the "National Medical Office." The telemarketers insisted that the seniors needed new 'verification card numbers' from Medicare, and then asked the seniors to disclose their checking account information. According to complaints received by Medicare, the bank account numbers are used to electronically withdraw money from consumers' accounts.

The phone number given by the company is identified with a P.O. Box in Champlain, NY on the Canadian border. According to the Buffalo Better Business Bureau, the company has an unsatisfactory rating due to unanswered complaints.

Tips to Protect Against Medicare Scams

- ✓ No one can come into your house uninvited.
- ✓ No one can ask you for personal information during marketing activities.
- ✓ Never give out your Medicare number (social security number) and personal financial numbers to anyone contacting you.
- ✓ Legitimate Medicare drug plans will not ask for payment over the telephone or the Internet. They must send a monthly bill.
- ✓ Whenever you have a question or concern about any activity regarding Medicare, call 1-877-7SAFERX (1-877-772-3379).



For assistance call the
Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179
www.denverda.org

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

July 2006

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To read the full alert on *Beware Medicare Telephone Scams*, go to www.denverda.org and click on Consumer Alerts.
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