

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

Reducing Mail Identity Theft

Mail theft is a prevalent way that thieves steal info for identity theft crimes. District Attorney Mitch Morrissey strongly urges Denver residents to:

- ✓ Mail your bills to be paid inside the Post Office, not in your mailbox or in street corner postal boxes. Consider using automated payment plans or paying bills online through your financial institution – both are safer than mailing a check. Thieves will take the account numbers from the bottom of your check and counterfeit new checks using readily available check-making software.
- ✓ When processing your income tax returns, opt to file the return electronically, or at the least, mail the return inside the Post Office. Tax returns include Social Security Numbers, which when stolen, can be used for credit or employment.
- ✓ Have paychecks, benefit, pension and Social Security checks direct deposited into your account, rather than having a check mailed to you. Expecting an income tax refund? It's always wise to ask the Department of Revenue and the U.S. Treasury to send the refund electronically to your account.
- ✓ When ordering new boxes of checks, ask your bank or credit union to receive and hold the checks for you, rather than have them mailed to your home. If your checks are stolen, you have 30 days from the date of your last bank statement on which the checks appear to report the forgery to your financial institution, and the most for which you can be held responsible is \$50.
- ✓ Call your bank and credit card customer service and ask to “opt out” of all marketing programs, including ‘convenience’ checks mailings.
- ✓ Opt out of unsolicited credit card offers, by calling 1-888-567-8688 or online at www.optoutprescreen.com. You will be required to enter your Social Security Number, but it is secure.

CASE
partnership

**For more assistance call the
Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179**

CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the
community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation
February 2006

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For more information on *Reducing Mail Identity Theft*, go to www.denverda.org and click on Consumer Alerts. The DA’s Fraud Line is 720-913-9179.