



CONSUMER FRAUD BULLETIN

Brought to you by Colorado Attorney General John Suthers

Spring 2014

Top Stories in this Bulletin:



[Rental Scams Rise](#)



[Foreign Lottery Scams](#)



[Robocalls Gone Wrong](#)



[Common Spring Scams](#)

Rental Scams on the Rise



Are you a renter or a rental property owner? Are you planning a vacation and looking for a great deal? Are you aware that the rental listings you're considering could be scams? Have you checked online advertising sites to ensure that someone isn't using your original ad in a scam? Fraudsters often advertise rentals that don't exist or aren't available in order to coerce unsuspecting renters into sending money before they find out the truth. As rental rates rise across the nation, so do rental scams. There are several versions of the rental scam, two of the most common include hijacked advertisements and phantom rentals. [Click here to learn more.](#)

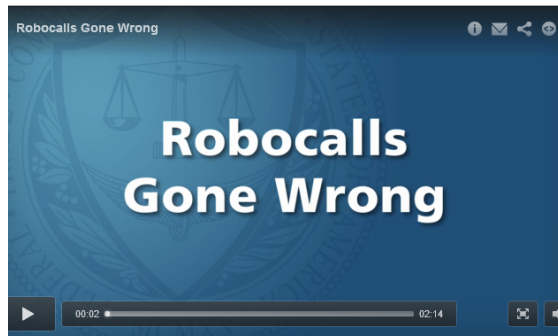
Foreign Lottery Scams Still Snagging Unsuspecting Victims



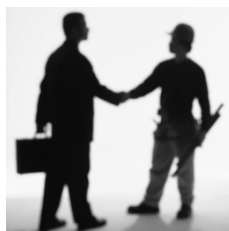
Foreign lottery fraud is one of the most pernicious scams targeting older Coloradans today. The scams come from dozens of countries, but many of them originate in Jamaica and are aimed at older, home-bound victims. C. Steven Baker, Midwest Region director for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, says that lottery and sweepstakes scammers from may be stealing more than \$1 billion a year from Americans. The problem has become so pronounced that, in early 2013, the Senate Special Committee on Aging agreed to investigate Jamaica-based phone scams, including lottery scams. But the FTC estimates that more than 90% of lottery scams go unreported because the victims are too embarrassed or ashamed to file a complaint. [Click here to read more about Foreign Lottery Scams from AARP Foundation Elderwatch.](#)

The FTC Explains Why Robocalls Have Gone Wrong

A major consumer concern is the amount of robocalls received on phone lines. In this video, Kati Daffan, an attorney at the Federal Trade Commission, explains why consumers are getting more and more robocalls, as well as the challenges involved in stopping them. Consumers are urged to register their phone numbers on the [Colorado No Call List](#) as well as the [Federal No Call List](#). [Click Here to Watch.](#)



Avoid Common Springtime Scams with Tips from the BBB



As the weather warms in Colorado, signs will begin popping up on street corners faster than the tulips, offering everything from painting services to landscaping. The Better Business Bureau Serving New Mexico and Southwest Colorado wants to remind consumers to do their homework before hiring a contractor for home improvements. There are several indicators that a company you are thinking of hiring may not be as good as they appear. One red flag is that the company says the offer is only good for today. Often times when an offer is not legitimate, there will be a push for the consumer to purchase the product or service immediately. [Click here to read more about spotting springtime scams from the BBB.](#)

Register, Update, or Unsubscribe [click here.](#)

www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov

Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 10th Floor
Denver CO 80203
800-222-4444

AARP Foundation ElderWatch
In Partnership with the Colorado Attorney General

