

CONSUMER FRAUD BULLETIN

Holiday Season 2015

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Wishing You a Safe & Happy Holiday Shopping Season



Traditionally the holidays are a time of year when families and friends gather to celebrate and reflect. Many also exchange gifts and take advantage of the vast sales offerings in stores and online, making it the busiest shopping season of the year. Unfortunately there are also unscrupulous scammers and thieves who prey on the generosity and enthusiasm of consumers during the holiday season. The Colorado Attorney General's Office has prepared a Consumer Holiday Guide to assist consumers from being victims of fraud during this joyous time of year. [Click here to view the Holiday Shopping Guide.](#)

How Do You Know Your Charitable Donation Is Finding The Right Pockets?



With numerous giving opportunities throughout our communities and annual philanthropy movements like [Colorado Gives Day \(12/8/15\)](#) and [Giving Tuesday \(12/1/15\)](#), Coloradans continue to show their immense generosity throughout the state. As a result it is important to thoroughly research the organizations receiving your donation as not everyone asking for money may be a real charity. As it can be increasingly difficult to tell a legitimate charity from a fraudulent one, donors should avoid charities or fundraisers that refuse to provide detailed information about their identities, missions, costs, or how donations are used. [Click here for more information on charitable giving or to report charity fraud.](#)

Why is Reporting Fraud Important?



Reporting fraud is a key component in identifying patterns of concern. Fraud reports enable our office to identify and devote our limited resources to the most egregious cases involving widespread harm to Colorado consumers and the associated business environment. Information from the public contributes to potential investigations and possible legal action taken on behalf of the State of Colorado. To learn more about the various scams affecting Colorado citizens, please [visit the Fraud Center](#). If you believe you have been victimized by a scam or wish to report suspicious activity, please [file a report here](#).

Recent Colorado Consumer Protection Cases and Ongoing Consumer Fraud Litigation

- [AAAA Television Electronics Vacuum & Appliance](#) - Ongoing lawsuit alleging the company grossed over \$2 million dollars in 2014 relating to deceptive advertising and deceptive trade practices associated with TV, sewing, and vacuum repair. A Temporary Restraining Order was granted pending further litigation. [Read More.](#)
- [Austin Home Ventures LLC d/b/a Capital Asset Recovery d/b/a Capital Recovery](#) - Active lawsuit alleging the company engaged in deceptive trade practices in connection with obtaining overbid funds from the sale of homes in foreclosure and with equity purchasing and related activities. A Motion for Preliminary Injunction has been file. [Read More.](#)
- [Education Management Corporation \(EDMC\)](#) - Multistate consent judgment reached to resolve the state's concern regarding EDMC's recruitment and enrollment practices, resulting in over \$2 million dollars in loan forgiveness for Coloradans. [Read More.](#)
- [Prestige Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning](#) - Ongoing lawsuit alleging the owners, Spencer and John Olguin, misled consumers relating to in-home carpet cleaning services. A Preliminary Injunction was issued prohibiting the Olguin's from providing in-home services of any kind to Colorado Consumers. [Read More.](#)
- [Center for Excellence in Higher Education \(CEHE\) d/b/a CollegeAmerica](#) - Ongoing lawsuit alleging the school and its executives engaged in deceptive practices tied to student outcomes, the availability of degree programs, transferability of credits, scholarships, and student loans. [Read More.](#)