

# **FRAUD ALERT!**

**From the Office of District Attorney Don Quick**

## **Phony U.S. Treasury Checks Mailed**

**Just in time for tax refund season, con artists have mailed out counterfeit copies of U.S. Treasury checks. Denver-metro area banks are reporting an increase in these phony checks. The checks are usually for a large sum of money and indicate they are for an *Overtax Refund*.**

**A letter accompanying one check stated, “Upon receiving the check, quickly deposit it into your bank account. The check will clear within 24 hours and tomorrow morning I will send you the details you will need to make the funds available to me. Remember that 10% of this amount will be kept by you for your services and assistance.”**

**This check will *not* clear, as it is a counterfeit check. If you deposit the check and withdraw funds against it, you may be held responsible for the loss – and it could be for several thousands of dollars. Before cashing your tax refund check make sure it is for the amount for which you claimed. If your bank informs you that a check is counterfeit – believe them and do not deposit the check!**

**If you are expecting a tax refund, it is always best to have the refund applied to your bank account electronically rather than have a check sent through the mail.**

**During tax season, beware of phony e-mails and telephone calls as well that may claim to be from the IRS. One recent fraudulent E-mail stated you have a refund coming and asks that you click on a link to verify your Social Security Number. If you do this, you have just sent your SSN to a crook!**



**For assistance call the  
DA's Fraud Line: 303-835-5633**

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