

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Adams/Broomfield Counties
District Attorney Don Quick

Preventing Caregiver Exploitation

Older adults are living longer than ever. This longevity is unfortunately increasing the incidence of caregiver financial exploitation. Most cases involve family members or trusted associates and can include: taking money or property; forging an older person's signature; and getting an older person to sign a deed or will through deception or coercion.

District Attorney Don Quick suggests doing your estate planning early. If putting adult children in charge of an estate is a problem, consider hiring a third party - an attorney or a CPA - who is not emotionally attached. Other preventative steps include:

- ? Using direct deposit for Social Security checks and retirement benefits.
- ? Keeping debit/credit cards, checkbooks and other valuables hidden if you have regular visitors to your home or apartment.
- ? Reviewing your financial statements every month – especially if someone is paying your bills and managing your accounts.
- ? Choosing your Power of Attorney with care and setting up a system of ‘checks and balances’ so no one person has complete control.
- ? Being careful about letting family, friends or tenants live in your house.
- ? Treating home care workers like employees, not friends.
- ? Maintaining contact with family, friends, and neighbors. The more active you are, the less likely you are to be exploited.



**To schedule a “Power Against Fraud”
seminar for your organization or work group,
call 303-835-5639**

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

August 2006

FRAUD ADVISORY

**From the Office of Adams/Broomfield Counties
District Attorney Don Quick**

Preventing Caregiver Exploitation

Older adults are living longer than ever, and with this fact has come an increase in caregiver financial exploitation. Most cases of exploitation involve family members or trusted advisors and can include: taking money or property; forging an older person's signature; and getting an older person to sign a deed or will through deception or coercion. Older adults can help prevent exploitation by: doing your estate planning early and with care - ensuring that no one person has complete control over you; using direct deposit for benefit checks; restricting access to financial info and valuables; reviewing financial statements regularly; being careful about letting family and friends live in your house; treating home care workers as employees, not friends; and maintaining contact with family, friends and neighbors.

To schedule a crime prevention seminar, "Power Against Fraud," offered as a public service by District Attorney Don Quick, call 303-835-5639 or E-mail: cjohnson@da17.state.co.us.