



Don Quick, District Attorney

# FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Attorney Don Quick

## WHEN DO I HAVE TO GIVE MY SSN?

Our Social Security Number (SSN) has become a *de facto* personal identifier number. Unfortunately, SSNs are used all too often by thieves who want to steal our identity. It is important to know that consumers are not required to give their SSN in all situations. Here is a list of entities that can require your SSN:

- Government tax and welfare agencies, including the IRS and state/local tax or revenue agencies;
- Federal agencies (for health benefits and other entitlements including Medicare)
- State professional/occupational/recreational licensing agencies;
- Your employer (but not for the purposes of a job application);
- Banks and securities brokerages;
- Contact with the Social Security Administration;

### Important to know:

- Upon issuance or renewal of an insurance policy, no insurance company doing business in Colorado may issue any insurance ID card or proof of insurance card that displays your SSN.
- You are under no obligation to give your SSN to any business or merchant, however the merchant has the right to decline your business or application if you refuse to provide your SSN.

### Ask questions before you provide your SSN:

- Why do you need my SSN?
- How will my SSN be used?
- What happens if I refuse?
- What law requires me to give you my number?

**Need help or have a question?  
Call the DA Fraud Information Line: 303-835-5639**

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