



FRAUD ALERT!

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

Don Quick, District Attorney

Ready or not, the holiday season is upon us. The crowds, excitement, and activity can provide fertile ground for criminal activity. Lots of opportunities for distraction can occur. A parent can go running after a tot, leaving shopping bags and/or a purse sitting unattended. The push-and-pull of people bumping into one another to catch the big sale are prime opportunities for to lift a wallet from a man's back pocket or out of a purse that is carried open. Checks, credit cards, and Driver's License's are laid on counters with a bevy of people nearby. Many retail outlets will hire short-term clerks for the holiday season; some may be bent on stealing personal information. Tis' the season for wonderful times...and opportunity for crime. Some suggestions:

- ◆ Never leave anything openly sitting in a car. Do not get out of a car and clearly place a purse, etc., in the trunk of your car;
- ◆ Take receipts and place them in your purse, wallet, or pocket. Do not leave them in shopping bags. Even though Colorado statute prohibits printing a whole credit card number on a receipt, many businesses still do so;
- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings. Watch for 'shoulder surfers' who are looking to capture bank account numbers from checks or credit card information;
- ◆ Reduce your use of checks. Use your debit card, with a PIN, and cover the Keypad when you enter your PIN;
- ◆ Try to avoid becoming distracted. Keep your purse in sight; better yet, carry economic information in a waist pack or pocket;
- ◆ To the best of your ability, keep your eye on your credit card; in restaurants or retail stores, take an extra moment to make sure you own credit card returned to you;
- ◆ Be wary of strangers who want to engage you in conversation. Sure it's the holiday season and we all want to be friendly; however, crooks may try to distract you to steal personal information;
- ◆ Check your bank and credit card statements carefully. You have 30 days to report fraudulent bank charges and 60 days to report fraudulent credit card charges. Remember, crooks do not need to steal your checks or credit card to fraudulently use these financial instruments.

**Need help or have a question?
Call the Fraud Information line at 303-835-5639**