

**Castle Rock
Police Department**
(303) 663-6100



**Consumer Fraud
Protection,
18th Judicial District:**
(720) 874-8547 or email
consumer@da18.state.co.us

BEWARE OF SCAMS

GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER FRAUD

- **What it is:** Government imposters are threatening and very believable. Many times, they claim to be from the IRS, SSA, CDC, police and others in an effort to gain your personal and private information.
- **How they contact you:** Often times, these scammers will reach out via phone. They claim you are in violation of a matter (i.e. there is a warrant out for your arrest) and you must pay a fine to avoid jail time.
- **What to know:** These government agencies will ONLY contact you via the U.S. postal system if they need to get ahold of you. You should never provide these callers with sensitive information – no matter how threatening or convincing they are. No government agency will threaten you.

GIFT CARD PAYMENT SCAM

- **What it is:** Imposters ask you to make payments in gift cards.
- **How they contact you:** These scammers often reach out to their victims via phone. Scammers often begin the conversation with a series of accusations that invoke fear and panic, then demand payment via gift cards.
- **What to know:** Have you ever used gift cards to pay government agencies, utility companies, service providers, etc.? This is not a normal means of payment for most goods or services and should automatically raise a red flag. Besides – gift cards cannot be used to pay legal fees, bail or taxes.



HOMEOWNER CONTRACT FRAUD

- **What it is:** Imposters convince you that your home needs construction, repairs, renovations, etc. Common complaints include a failure to provide materials and services after payment has already been made, poor quality and workmanship or incomplete and unfinished work.
- **What to know:** Do your homework when it comes to choosing a contractor. Get recommendations from people you trust, require references (specifically homes in your area), obtain multiple bids with detailed budgets, and read and understand the contract before signing off. If you have any questions or the project costs a considerable amount of money, consider hiring an attorney.

AMAZON CUSTOMER SUPPORT SCAMS

▪**What it is:** Scammers pretend to be Amazon workers and contact people claiming there is an issue with an account or order. They ask for personal and financial information in order to “help” you with your problem.

▪**How do they contact you:** Messages come in through phone calls, text messages, email and sometimes social media.

▪**What to know:** Amazon will never send you an unsolicited message asking for sensitive personal information (like a social security number). When in doubt, go directly to the source. Log in to your own Amazon account (do not click any links provided) and confirm the information.

PUPPY AND KITTEN PURCHASE SCAMS

▪**What it is:** Fraudulent and non-existent breeders sell you pets and/or charge additional funds for supplies to ship animals. They never had the animal in the first place and you are out money.

▪**How do they contact you:** Many of these companies have websites that look legitimate. Many are out-of-state OR will not allow you to visit the pets prior to purchase, stating



COVID-19 as a reason. Communication is done over the phone, messaging or email.



▪**What to know:** Do your research. Seek out online reviews and details. Ask to make payments in person rather than online. Choose a breeder or source where you can visit and meet the pet prior to purchase and exchange of money.

COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT, JOB OFFER SCAMS

▪**What it is:** Scammers are looking to take advantage of people who are looking for new jobs, facing losses in income or those in need of financial assistance. Often times, they offer work or financial assistance in an attempt to gain your sensitive personal data.

▪**How do they contact you:** Criminals can send you job offers via text, email or social media. Other times, they will reach out via phone.

▪**What to know:** If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is! You should never provide your social security number, birthday or any banking information without verifying who you are communicating with. Do not pay anyone to get a job; never wire funds or write checks to strangers.



**Not sure if it's a scam?
ASK us before you take any
action – ESPECIALLY if the
person you're communicating
with tells you not to go to
police. WE CAN HELP!**

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