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# FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

## HARD TIMES MAKE EASY TIMES FOR SCHEMERS!

As we ride out the current economic hard times, don't let financial schemes make your situation even harder. With the rise of unemployment, turmoil in financial institutions, and uncertainty with investments and home mortgages, people become more vulnerable to financial scams. Here are some of the scams that are on the rise as the financial crisis worsens.

- **Transfer Money from Financial Institutions** – Scammers claiming to be from Citibank recently sent out an email advising people to transfer their money to a “safe” overseas location in case U.S. financial institutions collapse.
- **Work-at-home Schemes** – Recent work-at-home schemes set people up to lose money or even pull them into illegal businesses, posing as someone else or shipping stolen merchandise overseas.

### Typical Work-at-Home Schemes:

- *Directories or diskettes listing work-at-home opportunities*
  - *Envelope-stuffing*
  - *Processing medical insurance claims*
  - *Craft assembly*
  - *Chain letters*
  - *Merchandise middleman*
- **Credit Repair Offers** – Avoid offers from credit repair companies claiming they can save you money while requiring a payment upfront. Good financial planners need to review your records BEFORE advising you. Don't send money to credit repair companies in order for them to send that money to your creditors. Do it yourself.



**Want a Power Against Fraud Presentation?  
Call Robin Finegan in the Denver District  
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