

## Recognize, Refuse, Report!

Call us  
Monday–Friday,  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

800-222-4444  
Option 2



Colorado Attorney  
General  
Cynthia Coffman

Scammers and criminals don't take a break during the holidays, in fact they might ramp up their efforts. This holiday season be on the lookout for different ways scammers might try to take advantage of you. Here are a few steps you can take to ensure this holiday season is joyous and scam-free:

- When purchasing a **gift card**, be sure to inspect it thoroughly for tampering. Ensure the PIN number on the back of the card is not visible. Consider purchasing it online directly from the retailer for an extra layer of security. Be sure to give the receipt for the gift card to the recipient.
- Outsmart door-to-door thieves! If you are **shipping a package**, it is a good idea to require a signature upon delivery or provide a specific instructions for the delivery company to ensure the package is not stolen.
- Avoid shopping online when you are connected to **free public Wi-Fi**. Networks that are not secure can expose your personal and financial information to criminals connected to the same network.
- **Charitable solicitations** are abundant this time of year. Do your research before giving through [www.checkthecharity.com](http://www.checkthecharity.com) or [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) to check the legitimacy of the organization. Avoid donating to an unsolicited caller.
- When shopping on Craigslist, eBay or other marketplace sites, **never wire money** to pay for goods or services. If you are asked to wire funds or pay using pre-paid gift cards, consider it a scam.

If you have a question about a potential holiday fraud or scam and want to talk it through with a trained AARP Foundation ElderWatch volunteer, please call 800-222-4444 and select option 2. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

**800-222-4444**

Denver Metro Area  
303-222-4444

[www.aarpelderwatch.org](http://www.aarpelderwatch.org)