


# Identity Theft & Fraud Trends in Colorado

Colorado Bureau of Investigation

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Colorado Bureau of Investigation  
Identity Theft, Fraud & Cyber Crimes Investigations Unit

24 Hour ID Theft & Fraud Hotline

1-855-443-3489

Toll free

Email

**[CBI.StopIDTheft@state.co.us](mailto:CBI.StopIDTheft@state.co.us)**

On the Web:

**<https://www.colorado.gov/cbi>**

# Facebook

- ▶ For current trends, alerts and tips on preventing ID Theft and Fraud

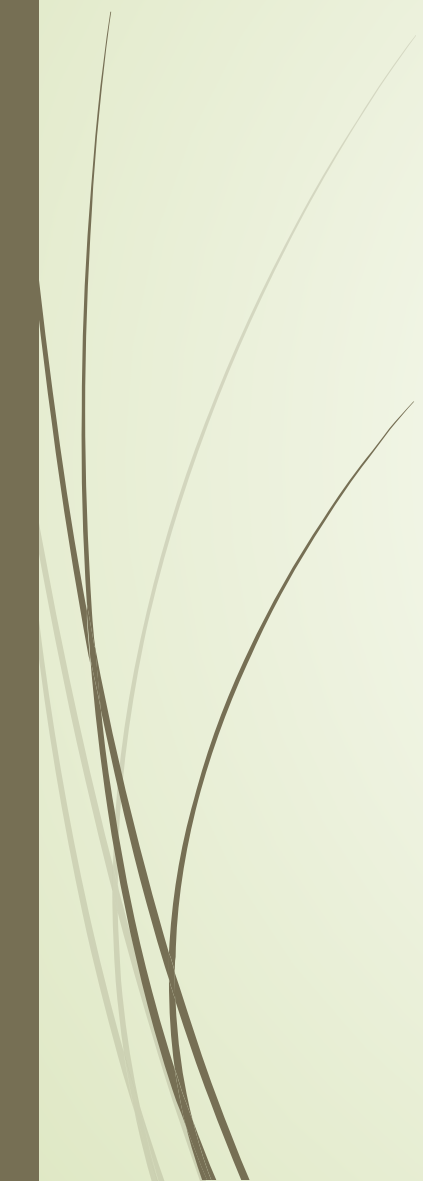


**<https://www.facebook.com/CBI.IDTheft>**



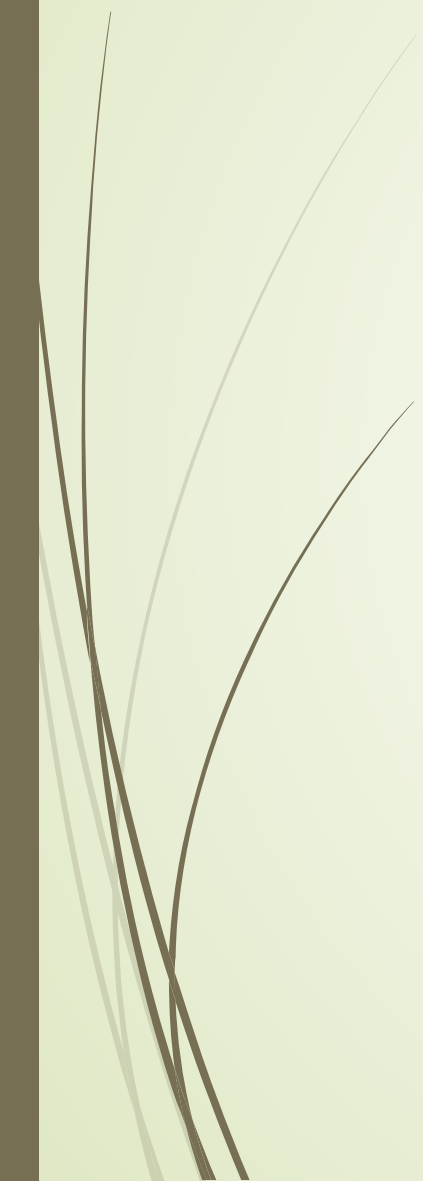
# Identity Theft

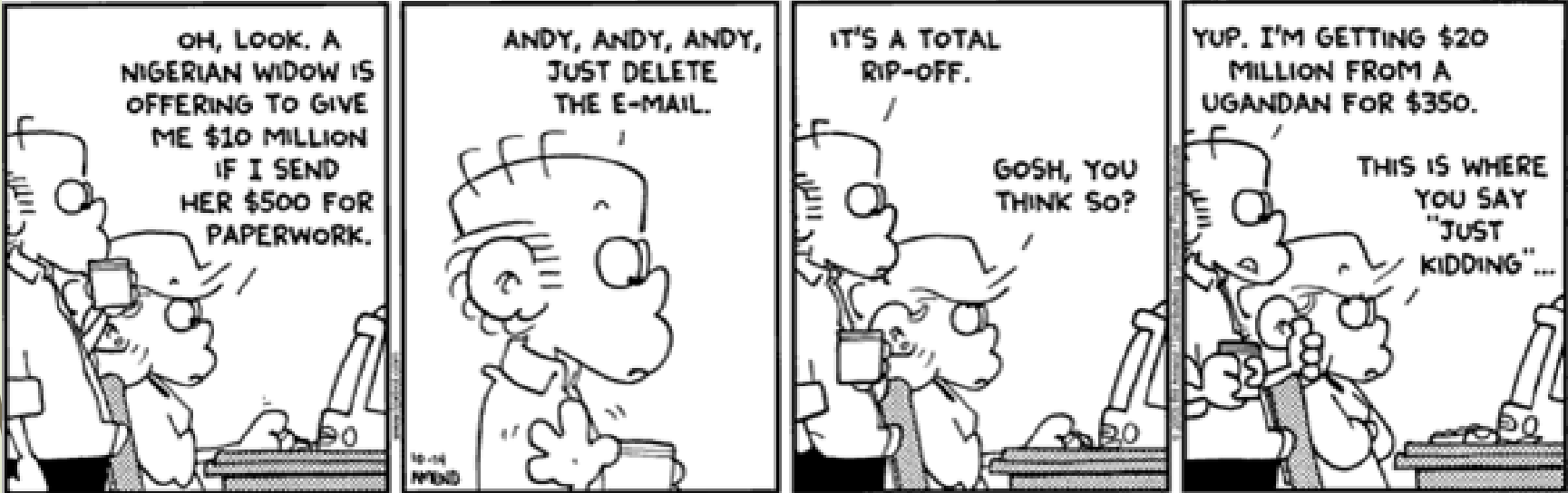
**Unlawfully obtaining, possessing, transferring, or using identifying information of another person without the other person's consent. In doing so, subjects the victim to civil liability, criminal prosecution, collections, etc.**





# Fraud

- The attempt to deceive a person for the purposes of gaining something of value (such as money, personal identifying information or goods)
- 



OH, LOOK. A NIGERIAN WIDOW IS OFFERING TO GIVE ME \$10 MILLION IF I SEND HER \$500 FOR PAPERWORK.


ANDY, ANDY, ANDY, JUST DELETE THE E-MAIL.

IT'S A TOTAL RIP-OFF.

GOSH, YOU THINK SO?

YUP. I'M GETTING \$20 MILLION FROM A UGANDAN FOR \$350.

THIS IS WHERE YOU SAY "JUST KIDDING" ...



# Are You At Risk? Quiz

- 1) I check my bank account expenses and balances:
  - a) Every day
  - b) Several times a week
  - c) A couple times a month
  - d) When I get my bank statement
  - e) Only if I try to get money from the ATM and there is none available
  - f) Why do I need to do that



# Quiz

1) I check my credit card details:

- a) Every time I use my card
- b) A couple of times a month
- c) When I get my statement
- d) Before I go shopping to see how much available credit I have
- e) You mean I have to check that





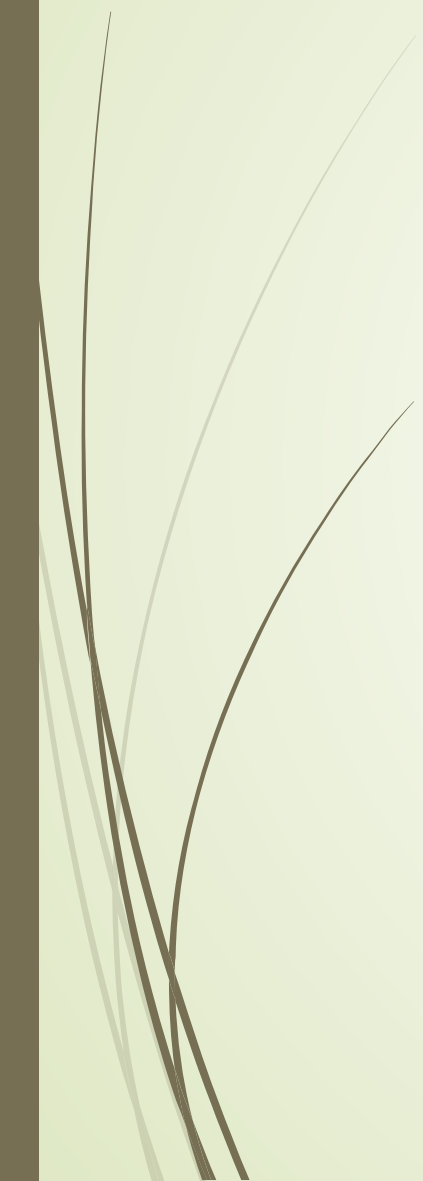
# Quiz

1) I check my credit report:

- a) Annually
- b) Before a big loan like a car loan or applying for a mortgage
- c) When I get those letters in the mail about a negative entry
- d) Never. I heard that if you check your credit report it lowers your credit score
- e) What's a credit report



# Quiz

- 1) The number of Debit or Credit Cards I have with me today:
    - a) 1 or 2
    - b) 3 or 4
    - c) 5 or more
    - d) I don't know, hold on a minute while I count them
- 



# Quiz

1) I carry a checkbook:

- a) Always
- b) Sometimes
- c) Never
- d) When I travel
- e) I carry one or two checks for emergencies
- f) What's a checkbook



# Quiz

- 1) I stash my wallet, purse, briefcase or laptop/tablet in my car:
  - a) Never
  - b) When I am running in to the store for just a minute
  - c) When I go the gym to work out
  - d) When I am on the slopes or hiking
  - e) All the time. I think my car is a pretty safe place to keep things



# Quiz

1) The passwords on my computer are:

- a) Really complex and changed frequently
- b) The names of my favorite pets so I will remember them
- c) The same passwords I started using when I set up my computer and online accounts
- d) All written down in a file on my computer so they are always available to me
- e) The same password for everything—keep it simple
- f) I think the password is still “password”
- g) Passwords? I don’t need no stinking passwords



# Quiz



- 1) When I get a call from someone offering to lower my credit card interest, I:
  - a) Jump on that offer
  - b) Hang up on the scam artist
  - c) Listen to see what they have to say. If the offer is good, I might be interested
  - d) Give them all of the info they ask for. After all, they know I have a credit card with high interest so they must be from my credit card company
  - e) Blow my scam artist whistle in their ear then hang up



# Quiz

- 1) My children, grandchildren, friends and I participate in Social Media
  - a) All the time. Facebook is great and I never miss a Tweet from George Clooney
  - b) Sometimes, but just to share personal pictures and stories
  - c) A lot, but we all have really good privacy settings in place
  - d) My kids and grandkids do all that stuff, but I have no idea what they are talking about



# Quiz

- 1) I have a Smart Phone and use it:
  - a) To make and receive phone calls. I don't understand all of the other stuff it does
  - b) As a phone for calls and text messages and sometimes to take photos
  - c) I do all of my banking and other activities on the phone. I can keep everything in one place: contacts, account information, Social Media – you name it
  - d) For calls and GPS
  - e) As a security measure to make emergency calls when I am alone or traveling





# Quiz

- 1) When it comes to Identity Theft and Fraud, I think I am:
  - a) At high risk
  - b) Doing everything I can to protect myself, but still at risk
  - c) I would never be caught in a scam
  - d) Probably pretty low risk
  - e) I don't like to think about those things
  - f) Who would steal my ID

# You Are At Risk For ID Theft and Fraud!





# Far Reaching Effects



- ▶ ID Theft and Fraud are often perpetrated by criminals within Organized Crime Rings and/or Terrorist Organizations
- ▶ ID Theft and Fraud are closely linked to
  - ▶ Drug Trade
  - ▶ Human Trafficking
  - ▶ Terrorist Activities

# What's New ?

- Skimmers
- Server Hacking
- Data Breaches
- Computer
- IRS Fraud



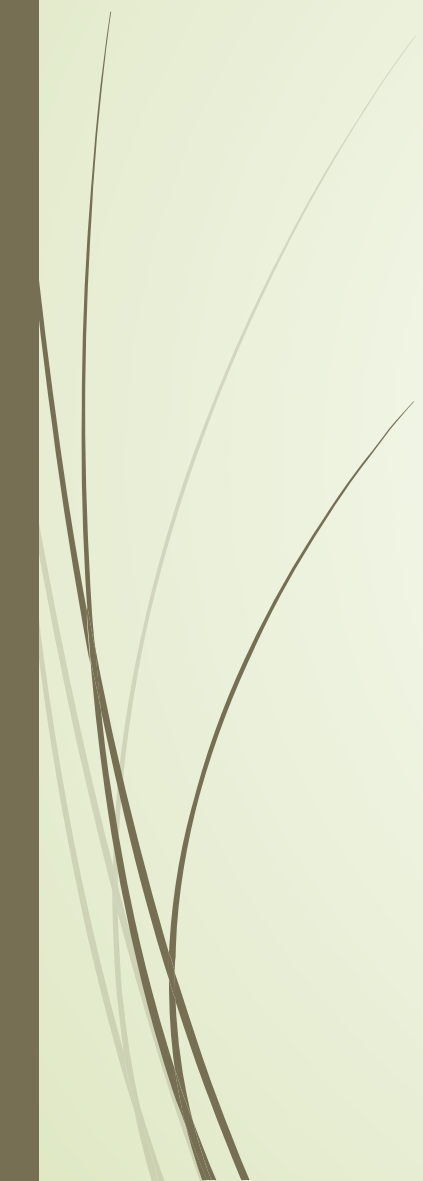


# Data Breaches & Hacking

- ▶ Target, Home Depot, Neiman Marcus, Michaels, PF Chang's etc.
  - ▶ Healthcare Agencies
  - ▶ Employer
  - ▶ Anthem
  - ▶ IRS
  - ▶ Federal Government
- 



# How Does It Happen?

- Someone on the inside
  - Hacking
  - Attaching Malware, Worms , etc.
- 



# Computer Takeovers

- ▶ Microsoft needs your computer to clean up viruses
  - ▶ Control of computer is given then access files
  - ▶ Hit IRS, Medical and Financial files first
  - ▶ Look for scans of documents like birth certificates or other government issued ID
  - ▶ May install Spyware
- ▶ FBI freezes your computer

# FBI Has Locked Your Computer

## YOUR COMPUTER HAS BEEN LOCKED!

This operating system is locked due to the violation of the federal laws of the United States of America! (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8; Article 202; Article 210 of the Criminal Code of U.S.A. provides for a deprivation of liberty for four to twelve years.)

Following violations were detected:

Your IP address was used to visit websites containing pornography, child pornography, zoophilia and child abuse. Your computer also contains video files with pornographic content, elements of violence and child pornography! Spam-messages with terrorist motives were also sent from your computer.

This computer lock is aimed to stop your illegal activity.

**To unlock the computer you are obliged to pay a fine of \$200.**

You have **72 hours** to pay the fine, otherwise you will be arrested.

You must pay the fine through \_\_\_\_\_

To pay the fine, you should enter the digits resulting code, which is located on the back of your \_\_\_\_\_ in the payment form and press OK (if you have several codes, enter them one after the other and press OK).

If an error occurs, send the codes to address [fine@fbi.gov](mailto:fine@fbi.gov).



\_\_\_\_\_

OK







# Tax Fraud



- ▶ Someone files taxes using your SSN or that of one of your dependents
- ▶ You file your tax returns and the IRS rejects it
- ▶ IRS pays out BILLIONS of dollars in fraudulent tax refunds

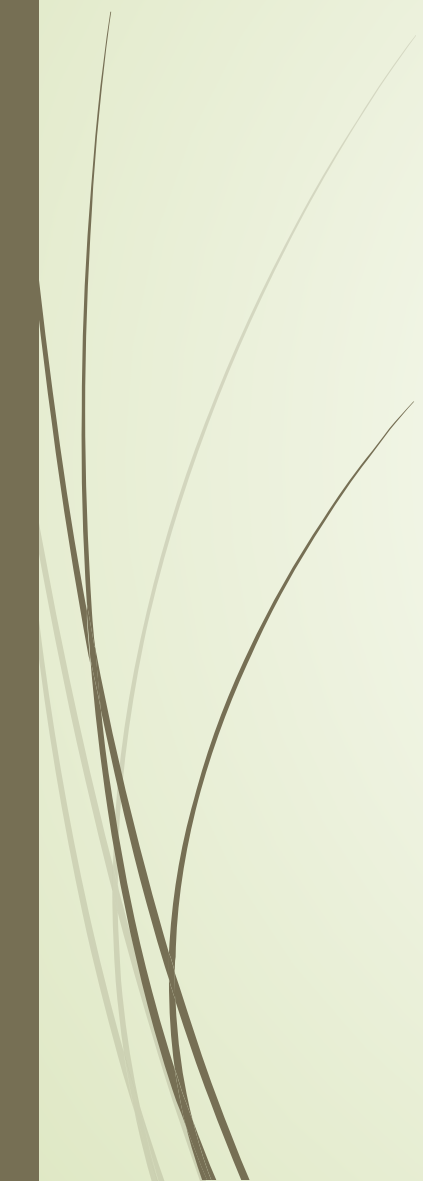


# Other Forms of ID Theft

- 
- Medical
  - Criminal
  - SSN for Work
  - Elder Exploitation/Abuse
  - Theft from Minor
  - Business



# What Is NOT New?

- ▶ Oldies but Goodies Scams include:
    - ▶ Loan Scams
    - ▶ Court Case Scams
    - ▶ Granny Scams
    - ▶ Craigslist and other Online Scams
    - ▶ Romance Scams
- 

# Loan Scam

- Caller states you owe money and better pay up or go to jail!



# Court Case Scam

- Caller says you are a named person in a court case and must provide personal identifying information and/or money

**S**SCHEMING  
**C**CRAFTY  
**A**AGGRESSIVE  
**M**MALICIOUS  
DON'T LET THEM CON YOU

# "Granny" Scam

- ▶ Hi Grandma, Help! I am stranded and need money!



# Craigslist Scam

- Sale of merchandise that does not exist
- Purchase of merchandise for an inflated dollar amount
- Work from Home Schemes
- Rental Property Scams



# Romance Scams

- I love you! You're perfect! I'm rich! BUT...
- Send me money
- Send me more money
- Send me more money...







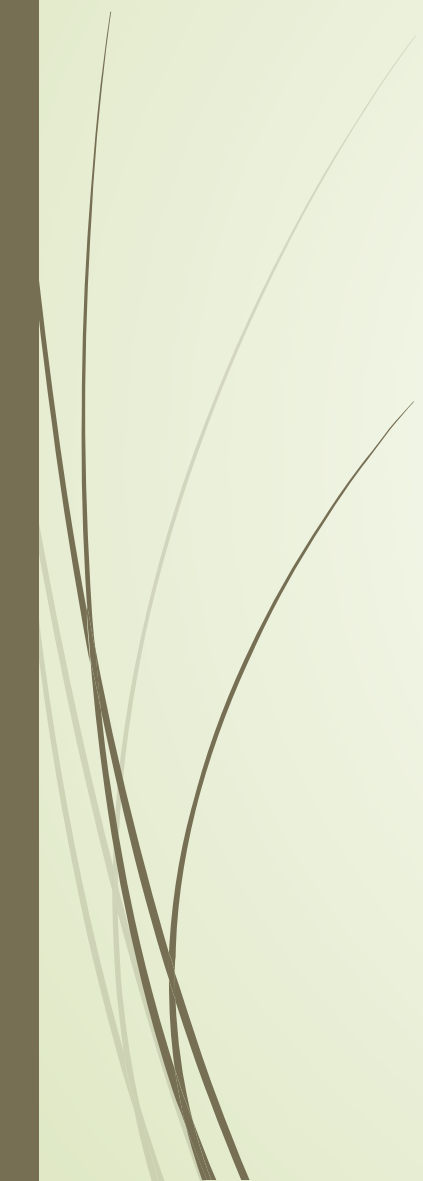
# IRS Scam

- Caller claims to be an agent of the IRS
- States you owe money to the IRS
- Pay up NOW or we will break down your door and arrest you
- Pay with wired funds or Green Dot Card





# The Scam After The Scam

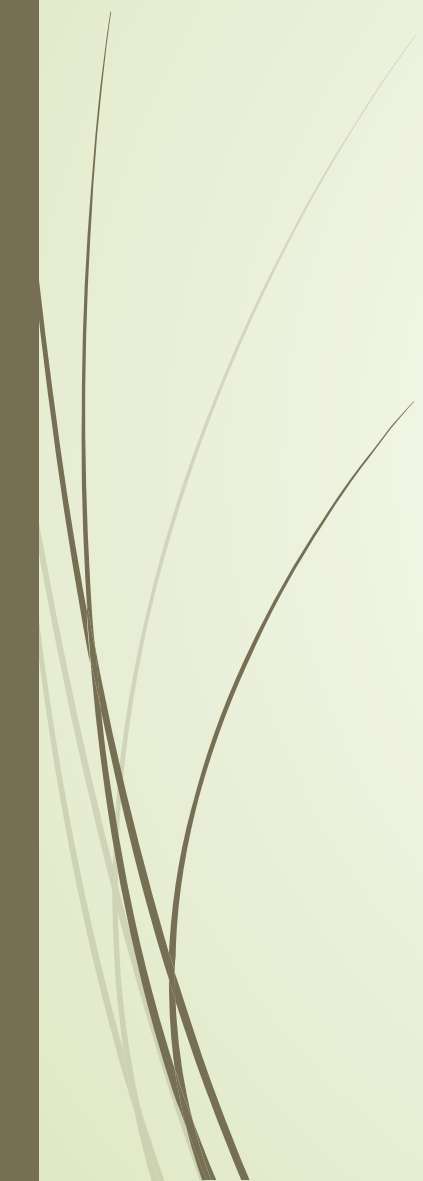
- Yes, I scammed you, now get your money back by working for me
  - Sets victims up to be “middlemen” or “mules” for the scam artist who is in another country
  - Unknowingly turns the victim into a perpetrator and opens them up to criminal charges
- 



If It Sounds Too Good  
To Be True...



# Favorite ID Theft Prevention Tips!

- ▶ Monitor your credit report, your financial accounts and your medical records
  - ▶ Be cautious with your online profiles and activities, and diligent about checking your privacy and security settings
  - ▶ Treat your Smartphone like a computer: maintain good security, require passcodes to access, consider 2 step authentication, understand public and private apps and Internet usage
  - ▶ Report any indication of ID theft immediately
- 



# Prevention

- ▶ **Passwords:**

- ▶ Change them more frequently
- ▶ Don't use the same one for all of your accounts
- ▶ Use sentences, phrases, lyrics, etc. to be able to remember longer passwords

- ▶ **Two-Factor Authentication:**

- ▶ A second authorization must be provided before signing in, or before transfers
- ▶ Available on everything from Gmail to bank accounts
- ▶ Think about how to build this into ***all of your accounts*** and your interactions with clients
- ▶ Personal / Company accounts

# Prevention

## ► Careful Clicking:

- Embedded malware



## ► Public Wi-Fi:

- Do not "auto connect"
- Connect to secure websites and apps
- Refrain from banking activities in an unsecured environment
- Key loggers
- **VPN** – How and why to use them
- <https://www.privateinternetaccess.com/pages/how-it-works/>
- VPN/Proxy/Tor: What happens to your stolen data



# To Report Fraud Attempts

Report to:

FBI website is:

[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

FTC website is:

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)



# Contact

24 Hour ID Theft & Fraud Hotline

1-855-443-3489

Toll Free

CBI Victim Advocate

Hazel Heckers

303-239-4649

[hazel.heckers@state.co.us](mailto:hazel.heckers@state.co.us)