

# Press Release



## Avoiding Fraud and Con-Games

**Apache Junction, Arizona, December 31, 2014** – The Apache Junction Police Department would like the Apache Junction residents to start the New Year prepared with the tools they need to avoid becoming victims of fraud or con-games.

If you are offered a deal that sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Most people think they could not be tricked, fooled or conned into handing over money for fraudulent deals. But it happens often. Con artists are experts in human psychology and behavior. They know how to gain your confidence with smooth talk and a self-assured manner. High-pressure sales are another ploy used by con artists. You can't recognize a con artist by the way someone looks or dresses, but you can be on the alert for con artists and consumer frauds. Telemarketing is a common method of stealing from senior citizens. Telephone fraud con artists spend a lot of time "polishing" their lines for enticing seniors to buy. Here are some tips that can alert you to Telemarketing scams:

- You must act now!
- You've won a "free" gift or vacation.
- Pay only postage and handling.
- You must send money, give a credit card number, a bank account number or have a check picked up by a carrier before you have a chance to carefully consider the offer.
- You don't need to research their company with anyone, including a lawyer, accountant, Better Business Bureau or other consumer protection agency.
- You don't need written information about their company or references.
- You can't afford to miss this "high profit, no risk" offer.

**REMEMBER!** The most successful con games are old schemes with new twists. There are many schemes and variations to the same scheme. If you hear these or similar lines, investigate further.

If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or a con-game, call the Apache Junction Police Department at (480) 982-8260 or the Arizona Attorney General's office at (602) 542-5763 or visit [www.azag.gov/consumer/home](http://www.azag.gov/consumer/home). Con artists count on the reluctance of their victims to acknowledge they have been tricked. Don't delay, report them right away. If you never report the incident, con artists will cheat again and again.

As your Police Chief I shall continue to have periodic public awareness items sent out to you for your review. Should you have any questions concerning information on protecting your income and your identity contact the Apache Junction Police Department's Community Resource Coordinator, Serene Carney, at (480) 474-5442 or [scarney@ajcity.net](mailto:scarney@ajcity.net).

Working together and sharing information empowers us all to take control of our safety. Have a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year.

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Contact:  
Serene Carney  
Community Resource Coordinator  
Apache Junction Police Department  
1001 N. Idaho Road  
Mailing: 300 E. Superstition Blvd.  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119  
(480) 474-5442