

FRAUD ALERT

Date: February 04, 2011
To: Fraud Alert Subscribers
From: NWCUA Compliance Department
Subject: Fake Debt Collection Scams

FAKE DEBT COLLECTION SCAMS

The Oregon Department of Justice has received several complaints regarding phony debt collection calls. Scam artists pose as debt collectors or law enforcement officers calling about an outstanding debt from an online payday loan. They frequently use fake phone numbers and official sounding business names. They also do their research. Some Oregonians have been tricked into paying nonexistent debt because the scam artist knew personal information about them, including their Social Security number, home address, e-mail, and names of family and personal references.

The majority of debt collectors abide by the rules of fair debt collection practices. Not only are these phony debt collectors stealing from Oregon consumers, the tactics they are using are illegal. Attorney General Kroger reminds Oregonians that debt collectors may not:

- Harass or abuse you or any third party. Harassment includes using threats of violence, obscene language, or repeatedly calling simply to annoy
- Claim to be a government or law enforcement representative
- Misrepresent the amount owed
- Use a fake company name
- Give false credit information about you to anyone
- Suggest you have committed a crime
- Send fake "official documents" from a court or government agency
- Deposit a post-dated check early
- Take or threaten to take your property unless it can be done legally