



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



MICHAEL L. RAMSEY
District Attorney

FRANCISCO R. ZARATE
Chief Deputy District Attorney

RICHARD WEST
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
April 9, 2013

MEDICARE CARD PHONE SCAM REACHES BUTTE COUNTY

The phone rings, you answer and someone, usually with a foreign accent, claims to be with Medicare and informs you your replacement Medicare Card is in the mail. In the meantime the caller states he/she wants to setup your direct deposit account so your Medicare funds can be directly deposited into your account. The caller then asks for your bank account number and says they will take care of the rest.

There is no new card and the caller is a scam artist who just wants to obtain your bank account information to steal from your account. A variation to this scam has the caller wanting to verify your information for a new Medicare card and he/she asks for your current Medicare Card number -- which of course is your social security number and the key to the theft of your financial identity.

This Medicare card scam started last year on the east coast and numerous seniors nationwide have reported such calls. District Attorney Mike Ramsey today warned local seniors the scam has reached Butte County according to recent calls to his Consumer Fraud Unit. Ramsey said Medicare officials have confirmed Medicare does not ask you for any personal information over the phone. Medicare does not contact their beneficiaries unless the beneficiary contacts Medicare first. Medicare also stated they do not keep any phone numbers or other personal information on file with the exception of the beneficiary's Medicare number.

Ramsey warned local citizens to never give out personal information over the phone unless they made the call first to a known number.

More information on this scam and others can be found on the Butte County District Attorney's Website at <http://www.buttecounty.net/da>.