



FRAUD ALERT

Contractor Scam

What is a Contractor Scam?

The most recent version of this old scam, is a subject contacts a 'victim' at their residence. The subject offers to re-pave their driveway for a small fee. The subject claims that he/she is doing a paving project nearby and will have an extra amount of concrete/asphalt. Thus, selling it to the victim for a "deal."

How can it be used to commit a fraud?

The victim pays for the driveway to be re-done, but it is never done or done poorly. Once a person enters an agreement with a contractor for services and those services aren't provided satisfactorily it is a civil issue and not a criminal issue in most cases. However, warning people of this potential situation is important as the Sheriff's Office took one report of this potential scam back in September of 2009 and then again yesterday 6-21-10.

What Can I do to prevent this fraud from happening to me?

Use a reputable contractor from a personal reference and/or through the Better Business Bureau do research on a company before contracting with them. When considering a contractor, ask for references and check them. Don't accept business solicitations from your front door/porch, and don't be rushed into making a decision—ever. Verify the business through the Better Business Bureau and check for customer complaints too. Seek out contractors on your own, don't allow someone soliciting you at your door to tell you what services you need. Report anyone suspicious to local law enforcement.

To report a Fraud in Mesa County, contact:
Mesa County Sheriff's Office Main Number at (970) 244-3500