



# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES DO NOT CALL CHARITY FRAUD ALERT**

**Carson City, NV** - Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto has issued the following consumer advisory as part of an ongoing effort to educate consumers.

The Attorney General is warning consumers of a new fraudulent activity in Nevada. An elderly Sparks, Nevada resident recently received a telemarketing call from a person who said he was calling on behalf of a nonprofit organization, worked for the "Sparks Fraud Department," and was tasked with calling seniors over 75 years old to help them make sure they did not receive unwanted sales calls. The telemarketer claimed all he needed was a bank account number, which would ensure that the consumer never received solicitation calls again.

This telemarketing call contains a number of fraudulent statements. First, there is no Sparks Fraud Department. Second, the only way to reduce unwanted telemarketing calls is to register your telephone number with the National Do Not Call Registry which is managed by the Federal Trade Commission. Third, joining the National Do Not Call Registry is free. You may sign up for the registry online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling the registry's toll-free number (1-888-382-1222) and following the prompts.

The motive for this telemarketing call was to fraudulently induce the elderly person to disclose his bank account information to enable the caller to steal money from the victim's bank account. The Nevada Attorney General cautions consumers to never provide bank account information or credit card information to any telemarketer. The only time it is appropriate to provide bank account or credit card information over the internet or by telephone is when you initiate the contact and absolutely trust the company you have contacted. Consumers providing bank account or credit card information to a company should always monitor their monthly bank statements and immediately notify their bank or credit card company of any suspicious charges or debits. Thieves often take small amounts of money over long periods of time in hopes the victim will not notice, so extra care is needed to discover and stop such theft.

Registering your telephone number with the National Do Not Call Registry will reduce the number of unwanted calls received; however, it will not totally eliminate them. Political campaigns and calls for charitable contributions are exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry under most circumstances. If you prefer not to be contacted by charities, you can advise them to put your name and telephone number on their internal do not call lists, which prevents them from making further contact. The Constitution protects political speech so there is no way to halt political campaign calls.

Consumers should never wire or otherwise send money to someone who is not well-known to them and should never pay for any service that is available at no cost. Questions regarding this matter can be addressed with the Nevada Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at (775) 684-1169.