



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S

SCAM ALERT



A Consumer Protection Alert from Oregon Attorney General John Kroger

March 19, 2009

PARENTS: WATCH OUT FOR SPRING BREAK SCAMS

Attorney General Kroger is warning parents about con artists who use bogus stories of car accidents and plane crashes to trick them into wiring money.

The scammers call in the middle of the night and tell parents that children on Spring Break have been hospitalized or jailed. Confused and worried parents are told to wire money to a "friend" to pay for medical help or bail.

The scammers can manipulate caller ID to make their scam seem more legitimate.

Parents are told they must immediately find a 24-hour money transfer service. By the time parents realize they have been scammed, the money and the scammers are gone.

Attorney General Kroger says parents should pre-arrange ways to easily communicate with their children while on Spring Break either by cell phone or through trusted adults or friends on the same trip.

Consumers seeking information should contact the Attorney General's consumer hotline at 1-877-877-9392. Justice is online at www.doj.state.or.us.

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