



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Consumer Fraud Alert for October 4, 2010

This consumer fraud alert is addressed to all Humboldt County restaurants regarding a scam possibly targeted toward your business. Chris Barry, owner of Shamus-T-Bones in Carlotta, reported to the Humboldt County District Attorney's office, that his restaurant was the target of such scam which could have cost him thousands of dollars.

The call to him came via a TTY line for the hearing impaired. The caller ordered several thousand dollars in food to be charged to a credit card. The food was to be picked up by a delivery service, and the caller wanted the restaurant to include an extra \$800.00 charge for the pickup order. The caller asked that a Western Union money gram for the \$800.00, be sent, in advance, to the delivery service.

Chris Barry became suspicious, and contacted the District Attorney's Office, reporting that several phone calls from the same scam artist were made to his establishment, trying to set delivery. According to Barry, the caller really seemed to be more interested in the \$800.00 fee, then in the order itself. Furthermore, Barry learned that the same type of scam has recently targeted restaurants in the Yuma, Arizona area.

The Humboldt County District Attorney's Office is asking all Humboldt County businesses and citizens to be on the alert. Consumer scams of all types are frequent, and caution in any transaction, via phone or email, in which the customer requests the business to wire money or use a credit card, needs to be carefully checked.

Protecting your business and personal information is the best way to avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud.

You are encouraged to contact your local law enforcement agency or the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office , if you have any questions regarding a possible fraudulent transaction, or if you are contacted by a person whom you do not know, who is requesting you to send money or provide information, such as bank account numbers or credit card numbers.