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**Give Crooks the Cold Shoulder!**

**Las Vegas** – Stop a scam before it starts by avoiding “shoulder surfing”. The Nevada Fight Fraud Taskforce is warning consumers to watch out for over-the-shoulder observation by crooks.

Criminals use this technique to obtain information without your knowledge. By peering over your shoulder, scammers can watch you fill out a form, enter your PIN at an ATM, use a calling card, and enter passwords. They will then use this information to steal your money, your goods or your identity.

To stay safe:

- Be aware of your surroundings when in crowded places or standing in line.
- Shield your paperwork or the keypad from view by using your body or your hand as a block.
- If you carry your Social Security card with you, do not keep it up front in your wallet. Thieves can memorize your SSN while you're pulling out cash or a credit card.

To learn more about how to protect yourself from all kinds of scams, visit the Fight Fraud website at <http://fightfraud.nv.gov> or find a fraud event in your area at <http://fightfraud.nv.gov/calendar.htm>.

*About the Fight Fraud Taskforce and Website*

The statewide Fight Fraud Taskforce includes members from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, the I.R.S., the Department of Justice, the Nevada Attorney General and its Bureau of Consumer Protection, the Secretary of State, the Better Business Bureau in Las Vegas and Reno, the Department of Business & Industry, the Division of Mortgage Lending, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Federal Trade Commission, U.S.P.S., and experts from the private sector among others. The group acts as a clearinghouse for fraud information and strives to educate the public on how to avoid the latest scams.

The Fight Fraud Taskforce also ensures that the latest fraud information is available on the Fight Fraud website. Consumers are encouraged to visit the site, which includes extensive tips on how to prevent fraud and provides downloadable complaint forms to help you respond effectively if you become a victim. Visit it regularly for the latest fraud alerts.