

The Informer

Colorado Welfare Fraud Council

April 18, 2014

Celebrating 30 Years!

The Colorado Welfare Fraud Council has been in business since 1984.

The Colorado Family Support Council voted to form a Welfare Fraud Task Force to separate the issue of welfare fraud from child support. Initially, the Colorado District Attorney's Council was the parent organization for CWFC. The first meeting of CWFC occurred on February 24, 1984, where the CWFC Constitution and By-laws were established and later adopted.

In May 1989, the general membership approved separation of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council from the Colorado District Attorney's Council.

The board and members of CWFC have worked hard over the years to support the mission and goals of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council.

The mission of the Colorado Welfare Fraud Council is to uphold the integrity and spirit of public assistance programs' rules and regulations as they relate to fraud.

Goals of CWFC:

- ◇ Detection, investigation and prosecution of fraud
- ◇ Prevention of fraud, both external and internal, within all public assistance agencies and the programs they administer
- ◇ Recovery of fraudulently obtained public assistance benefits
- ◇ Foster program integrity
- ◇ To maintain CWFC's information resources
- ◇ To provide goal-related training to CWFC members and other interested

individuals

- ◇ To identify and address the concerns of members and potential members of CWFC
- ◇ To propose CWFC goal related changes and modification to the programs in which we work, and strive to move those proposals toward implementation

We're proud of our organization and extremely grateful to those dedicated people who have served the organization so faithfully over the years. Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission and continue to maintain the integrity of Human Services programs throughout the state of Colorado!



Inside this issue:

Conference Agenda	2
Revealed	3
Vote!	3
Conference Registration Form	4
Award Nomination Form	5

Welfare Cash Pulled From ATMs Inside Colorado

Pot Shops

Chris Halsne and Chris Koeberl, Fox 31, Denver www.kdvr.com

DENVER — Colorado welfare recipients are using ATMs located inside marijuana retail shops to withdraw cash.

The money was given to them by taxpayers to help their families survive, but an exclusive Fox31 Denver investigation found some cash benefits most likely going toward

marijuana purchases.

FOX31 Denver asked the Colorado Department of Human Services for its "Quest card" database of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cash transactions for the month of January, 2014.

That is the first month in which

Colorado marijuana dispensaries were regulated and open for recreational sales.

The FOX31 Denver investigative team matched the addresses of EBT cash withdrawal locations with the addresses of Colorado's marijuana dispensaries.

In one month, records show 19

different marijuana retail stores had at least one welfare recipient walk into their business, insert a Quest debit card into an ATM machine inside the store, then withdraw at least \$20 cash.

For more, visit <http://kdvr.com/2014/02/19/welfare-cash-pulled-from-atms-inside-colorado-pot-shops/>

Conference Agenda

As our 30th Annual CWFC Training Conference gets closer, the Conference Agenda Committee is focusing on presentations that will interest everyone from eligibility to fraud investigators. We have been working hard to ensure that we have dotted the "I"s and crossed the "T"s. We have set up the menu so that all costs for food will be covered in the registration fee so that counties do not have to worry about per diem.

As presentations come together, we thought we would give members a "heads up" with a general agenda. We will continue to add presentations in the coming days. Please check the website, www.cwfc.us, for updates.

Below is a list of the presentations that we have confirmed. We hope that you will find that there is a little bit for everyone!

Special thanks to President-Elect Tammy Frey and the Conference Agenda Committee for the time they have spent putting together this fantastic conference for our members! We will see you in Colorado Springs in June for the conference!

Available Workshops:

- **Paula Lujan** – Employment and Benefits Division – Policy and Program Integrity
- **Carol Spink** – CDHS/FA Policy – Food Assistance Rule Re-Write Summary
- **Russell Stephens** – Garfield County Supervisor Program Integrity Unit, along with Jennifer Austin from Mesa County – Two sessions Case Study Fraud Cases
- **Detective Chris Ward** – El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Financial Crimes Unit – Interview and Interrogation Presentation along with Court Room Testimony
- **Lina Rivera** – Special Agent SSA-OIG – SSA Fraud Investigations and How OIG Can Help
- **Lori Torrini** – Colorado Springs Police Dept. Crime Prevention Officer – Verbally Defusing a Client and Safety along with Refuse To Be a Victim
- **Kelly Lindgren & Brett Maddy** – Colorado Motor Vehicle and Drivers' License, El Paso County Clerk and Recorder, Dept. of Motor Vehicle – Navigation and Description of Motor Vehicle and Drivers' License processes
- **Phillip Parrot** – Attorney – Battle Scars: What I Have Learned From The Front Lines of Fraud Investigations and Trials
- **Larry Boven and Adam Blach** – Fraud Detection Using Data along with an open forum for COGNOS reports
- **Kevin Porter** – Special Agent OIG – How to Traffic Food Stamps
- **Mark Magnuson** – CWFC Board Member, Investigations Manager for Weld County – Worker Safety/Awareness along with Presenting Cases to the DA
- **Aleissa Thomas** – Investigator, Weld County – Determining True Eligibility (Parts 1 and 2)
- **Liz Saucedo & Bugi Perrone** – EBT Program Specialists – EBT Office, CDHS – Colorado "Qwest" For Success
- **Lori Duffy** – TOP/DOR Program Specialist – Benefit Recovery Changes in CBMS for Food Assistance
- **Kelly Carter, Viki Harris and Nicole Tennant** – SNAP/QA Management Staff – SNAP/QA Boot Camp (Parts 1 and 2)



Vote!



Ballots for the election of the 2014-2015 officers have been mailed and you should have already received yours. Be sure to return your ballot by the due date in order to make your vote count!

If you did not receive a ballot, please contact Shawn Southard-Nielsen at shawnsouthard@elpasoco.com.

Share the good work that CWFC is doing to fight welfare fraud! We're always looking for new members to join our organization, so be sure to spread the word!



Colorado Welfare Fraud Council

PO Box 890
Canon City, CO 81215
www.cwfc.us

Revealed: 'Scottish aristocrats' who took \$165,000 in welfare checks while living on a yacht had \$3 MILLION stashed away

By Louise Boyle and Joshua Gardner www.dailymail.co.uk

A wealthy Minnesota couple who've been on the lam since they were accused of bilking two states out of nearly \$200K in welfare benefits had an astounding \$3 million stashed away in various bank accounts when they were caught, it was revealed Friday.

Colin Chisholm III, 62, and his wife Lady Andrea, 54, of Deephaven, Minnesota, have been charged with wrongfully obtaining \$165,000 between 2005 and 2012 from various government assistance programs, some while living aboard a yacht in Florida.

The couple claimed to be wealthy Scottish aristocrats while living in the community of Deephaven, Minnesota, where authorities pledged this week to do everything in their power to bring them to justice.

"These were rich folks ripping off the system," Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman announced at a press conference Friday. "I will make sure they do hard time."

While probation is the lightest sentence allowable for the charges of welfare fraud, Freeman vowed to push for prison time, the [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#) reports.

'I can't imagine a judge in this district allowing the Lord and Lady to get probation,' Freeman quipped.

The maximum sentence is a \$100,000 fine and 20 years behind bars.

Along with the million-dollar yacht called the Andrea Aras, the couple have a grand, six-bedroom lakeside home, a beach property in Florida and a \$30,000 Lexus, investigators found.

Colin Chisholm III, claims he is from a long line of Scottish aristocracy and is a wealthy broadcasting executive, according to court filings.

The couple are still at large after a search was launched by law enforcement last month.

The Chisholms also had \$3 million in bank accounts which they failed to declare, according to the Hennepin County Attorney's office.

The couple were receiving public assistance for their medical care and food stamps in Minnesota for years while also allegedly collecting welfare in Florida.

According to the criminal complaint filed in February, the Chisholms applied for more than a dozen forms of medical assistance, welfare payments and food stamps.

Lady Chisholm had her prenatal care for the couple's son in 2006 paid for by the

state while claiming to be destitute.

In the welfare applications, the couple allegedly lied about where they were living and who they were living with.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2592538/Scottish-aristocrats-lam-following-charges-scammed-165-000-welfare-checks-living-yacht-3-MILLION-stashed-away-bank.html#ixzz2zFqooEhh>

Remember to bring a gift basket from your county to be given away as a door prize during the conference! Baskets can be left with a CWFC representative at the registration desk when you check in.





*Registration for the 2014 CWFC Conference
June 3-6, 2014
Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
5580 Tech Center Drive
Colorado Springs, CO*

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND MAIL BY MAY 15, 2014

_____ \$240.00 Full Conference Registration—All meals and breaks included (does not include lodging*)

_____ \$120.00 One Day Registration: Please Specify Day and Date _____ All meals and breaks are included for the specified day

Please complete the following in its entirety:

Registrant's Name

Complete Address Street or P.O. Box

City, State, Zip Code

County or Entity Represented

Full Telephone Number including Area Code

Job Title

Please choose one meal choice for the banquet dinner Thursday, June 5, 2014:

Herb Crusted Chicken _____ New York Strip _____

Please make all checks payable to CWFC. Mail check with your registration form to:

CWFC

P.O. Box 890

Canon City, CO 81215

****Do not forget to make your Hotel Reservations separately. This Registration Form is for Conference Registration only. Your Hotel Reservations can be made by accessing the Hotel link at www.cwfc.us. The cutoff date for hotel is 05/04/2014.**

Reminder: Please bring a gift basket or door prize from your county to be given away as a door prize. Please deliver Gift Baskets/ Door Prizes to CWFC Staff at the time of initial registration at the Registration Table.



Award Nomination Form

Nominees need not be CWFC members

(Check only one per nomination)

_____ *Ted Cole Memorial Award*

This award recognizes an individual or group who demonstrated excellence in performance that enhances the general principles and goals of the CWFC, public relations, positive contribution to newsletter, legislation, or other printed forums that relate to preventing public assistance fraud and the promotion of the CWFC.

_____ *Outstanding Group or Individual of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who have made an important contribution and/or a major impact in the prevention, detection, prosecution, and recovery of fraudulently obtained public assistance within the last year.

_____ *Prosecutor of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or shown excellence in the prosecution of fraud.

_____ *Income Maintenance Tech, Eligibility Worker, or Case Manager of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the prevention of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

_____ *Recovery, Legal, Investigative Tech of the Year*

This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or demonstrates excellence in the recovery of public assistance or food assistance fraud.

_____ *Investigator of the Year*

This award includes all Investigators from local, state and federal levels. It recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution and/or exhibited excellence in the investigation of fraud and program abuse.

Nominee: _____

Reason for Nomination- please attach your nomination on department letterhead

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Fax or E-mail nominations to Shawn Southard-Nielsen or any Awards Committee member by April 30, 2014.

Fax: 719.520.6957

E-mail: shawnsouthard@elpasoco.com