

FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of San Joaquin County District Attorney
James P. Willett

DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

On February 17, 2009, television stations will begin broadcasting in digital format. Unfamiliarity and confusion make this a golden opportunity for scam artists. Ads are currently running across the U.S. promising free television channels, services and digital TV converter boxes, but are really a bait and switch tactic that prey on consumers' lack of knowledge about digital TV conversion requirements. Also, some merchants are giving out misinformation in order to get customers to purchase new TV sets. Before making any purchase – keep in mind the following:

Viewers who currently have cable or satellite television will not need to make any changes or purchase any additional equipment.

Television sets made after March 2007 already have digital tuners built into them.

Viewers who are currently using rabbit ears or an antenna will need a digital converter box in order to watch television after February 17, 2009.

The Federal Government allows each U.S. household up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of the converter box. After applying the coupon, participating retailers will charge consumers the remaining balance of between \$10 and \$30.

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, you can request a coupon while supplies last in one of four ways:

Apply Online at: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx>

Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline **1-888-DTV-2009** (1-888-388-2009)

Mail a coupon application to: PO BOX 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000 or
Fax a coupon application to: 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632)

For more information about digital TV conversion, consumers can call the DTV hotline at, 888-DTV-2009, or visit: www.dtv2009.gov



**For assistance call the
DA's Elder Fraud Line:
(209)468-2488**

*CASE is a Partnership of the District Attorney and the
Community to Prevent Elder Financial Exploitation*