



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Fraud Alert: Beware of changes made to your utility service
without your permission**

(Woodland, CA) August 2, 2019 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig is informing Yolo County residents to be aware of utility service providers who are switching customer's gas or electric service without consent or authorization. Residents who filed complaints to the District Attorney's Office did not know that their service provider was switched until they received a letter from their primary utility service provider confirming their request to switch to another provider for gas or electric services. None of the residents who filed reports authorized the change. All of the residents live in the city of Woodland. The utility provider switch took place during June, 2019.

While taking these reports from concerned community members, it's noteworthy to mention that none of the residents that were filing a report ever spoke to a door-to-door representative from the new utility provider, nor did they go to the new utility provider's website to make a change. Two of the residents called this new utility provider after they received the letter from the first energy provider. These residents were told that an adult son or daughter authorized the transfer of service. Neither of the residents have an adult son nor could daughter living in their home, so this information not be accurate.

The practice of switching a customer from one utility provider to another without the customer's permission is called "slamming." Utility customers usually don't find out they've been "slammed" until they receive a bill from the new utility company.

According to District Attorney Reisig, "The complexity of this unscrupulous activity makes it difficult to detect and hard to switch back. The best defense against becoming a victim of scams such as this is knowledge and vigilance."

Yolo County residents that suspect that they have been "slammed" (switched to a new utility provider without your permission) are urged to call the Yolo County District Attorney's Fraud Hotline at 855-4-YOLO-DA or 530-666-8180 or email our office at fraud@yoloda.org. In the case of an emergency please call your local law enforcement agency.

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