



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District Attorney Nola Tedesco Foulston advises citizens to disregard any direct mail pieces received which represents a "FINAL NOTICE" opportunity to extend a manufacturer automobile warranty.

Both District Attorney Foulston and the Kansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection divisions have separately fined and obtained injunctions against two Missouri companies which sent numerous direct mail pieces to Kansas consumers. Nonetheless, Kansas consumers, and others across the nation, continue to receive deceptive mail pieces, as well as telephone solicitations, which convey a false sense of urgency that a warranty has expired or is about to expire.

Most recipients of these mailers and telemarketing calls do not have warranties on their vehicles to renew or the warranties have expired long ago. The Better Business Bureau of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois lists 92 extended warranty companies in the St. Louis area, which is where the majority of the direct mailers originate. Some of these companies make deceptive representations and engage in high-pressure sales tactics in order to over priced extended warranty plans to cover certain automotive repairs. The Missouri Attorney General is aware of these companies and is presently investigating them.

Should you receive one of these mailers, disregard it. If you are on the Do Not Call List and receive a phone call from one of these telemarketers selling extended auto warranties, keep the information from your Caller ID and file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. A person who truly wishes to obtain an extended auto warranty can purchase or finance a plan from a local automobile dealership or elsewhere, and will almost certainly save some money.

To protect yourself from other frauds and scams, check out sedgwickcounty.org/da.

For more information, contact Sharon Werner, Chief Attorney, Consumer Fraud and Economic Crime Division, at 660-3700.

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District Attorney