



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Tom Mustin  
Media Relations Director  
23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District  
Cell: 303-358-9375  
tmustin@coda23.gov

**For Immediate Release:**

# **Illegal Immigrant Sentenced to 6 Years in Prison for Scamming Elderly Woman in Gold Bar Scheme**

## **Sagar Patel Defrauded 80-year-old Highlands Ranch Woman of Life Savings**

**Castle Rock, CO** - On March 7, 2025, 27-year-old Sagar Patel was sentenced to 6 years in prison after being found guilty in a sophisticated scheme that targeted an elderly woman in Highlands Ranch.

Deputy District Attorney Joe Ratner stated, “If you come to Douglas County to scam senior citizens out of gold bars, you can expect to be behind prison bars.”

The victim, an 80-year-old woman identified as “Charlotte,” was defrauded of more than \$126,000 after receiving a “pop up” message on her computer warning of a supposed virus. After calling the phone number provided, she spoke with a man claiming to be a federal agent. He told her that her bank account had been compromised, and convinced her to purchase two gold bars, each valued at more than \$63,000. Charlotte later handed over the gold bars to an individual pretending to be an undercover agent.

Charlotte recorded the vehicle’s license plate number—a critical decision—and turned it over to the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office. DCSO Detective Eric Oppeau chased down every lead, which lead to the arrest of Sagar Patel. Sagar, an undocumented immigrant with a hold on him from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), is under investigation for similar crimes in Delaware and New York.

Charlotte's son, William Wilcox, commented, "While no sentence can undo what happened to my mother, this conviction brings a small sense of justice and closure for the family."

Douglas County Sheriff Darren Weekly praised the work of Detective Oppeau and the Financial Crimes Unit. "Detective Oppeau pursued every lead and remained committed to ensuring justice for the victim. This case underscores our commitment to protecting those at risk in our community."

DA George Brauchler emphasized the commitment of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District to holding criminals accountable. "Undoubtedly this illegal immigrant, who is not from Douglas County, was a part of a broader network of thieves who prey upon the elderly to defraud them of their life savings. Illegal immigration has costs to society. The victim's bravery and DCSO's relentless efforts helped us to catch this despicable thief and bring him to justice. I will continue to warn criminals: if you come here to victimize us, bring a toothbrush. Expect incarceration."

####