



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF SHASTA

Gerald C. Benito
District Attorney

Daniel E. Flynn
Assistant District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE
February 21, 2008

**OFFICE DEPOT TO OFFER COUPON IN SUNDAY CIRCULAR AFTER LAWSUIT
ALLEGING OVERCHARGES OF CALIFORNIA CUSTOMERS**

Last September, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with the District Attorneys of Marin, Sonoma, Ventura, Solano, Napa, Santa Clara, Sacramento, and Los Angeles counties, and the City Attorney of the City of Los Angeles, settled a consumer protection case filed against Office Depot, Inc. the operator of "Office Depot" stores throughout California. The case developed after Department of Weights and Measures investigating certain instances where Office Depot failed to charge the correct prices for certain merchandise – either by scanners being improperly programmed or by personnel failing to take down old sale signs. When the investigation broadened, it was determined that these problems existed at other stores in the state, and prosecutors joined forces to undertake legal action to eradicate the problem.

In addition to paying over two million dollars in civil penalties, the Court ordered Office Depot to pay restitution to the public in the form of a coupon good for \$5.00 off any in-store purchase at California Office Depot stores, with no minimum purchase. Office Depot intends to run this coupon in its Sunday weekly supplement of this coming Sunday, February 24, 2008. It is valid only for the three day period of February 24th through the 26th, 2008. The coupon is good towards any Office Depot product except: gift cards; postage stamps; product protection plans; HP ink or toner products; Toshiba, HP, Gateway or Compaq computers (notebook or desktop); or third party business services (such as wireless, satellite, internet services, etc). Because this coupon was part of the civil settlement, the District Attorney's Office wanted to alert the community of its issuance, and encourage customers to take advantage of the coupon. Only one coupon per household may be used.

The Shasta County Department of Weights and Measures routinely monitors local retailers so that consumers get the correct prices when they shop. Most scanner overcharges by stores are the result of carelessness or negligence rather than an intentional act. But businesses must establish procedures and devote resources to promote price accuracy. The District Attorney's Office brings actions such as this to ensure that businesses comply with their responsibilities. Consumers should also be vigilant at the cash register to make sure they are charged the correct price for the items they purchase.

For more information about the coupon, contact District Attorney Jerry Benito or Deputy District Attorney Erin M. Dervin at 245-6310 and for information about the investigation contact Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures Mary Pfeiffer at 224-4949.