

## Kenneth R. Buck - District Attorney Michael J. Rourke - Asst. District Attorney

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Flood necessitates transfer of firearms

Greeley, CO – The Weld County District Attorney's Office will not prosecute any cases associated with firearms transferred by evacuees of the recent floods.

A number of residents who were forced to leave their homes are now facing the long rebuilding process of damaged or destroyed homes. These residents have been forced to give their firearms to others for safekeeping during this challenging and stressful time.

While this seems an innocuous task, it is a violation of House Bill 1229, passed and signed into law during the 2012-13 legislative session. The legislation makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor if a resident fails to perform a background check before transferring a firearm to another individual.

"It would be unconscionable to require those affected by the floodwaters to obtain a background check," said District Attorney Ken Buck. "And it would be equally unconscionable to prosecute them under these circumstances. This is an example of the consequences of laws that are overbroad and not well thought out and illustrates how such laws can harm residents' rights."

Buck's office has sent a letter (attached) to law enforcement agencies informing them of this decision.

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