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WICHITA, KAN. – The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the District Attorney has a warning to consumers concerning purchasing a new car.

The District Attorney’s Office investigated a consumer complaint involving the sale of a “new” automobile by a local car dealership. The investigation learned the dealership failed to disclose to the buyer that a new vehicle had been stolen from their lot, damaged while not in their possession and repaired after it was recovered. The buyer only learned this information when he later attempted to trade in the vehicle at another dealership. Based on the voluntary and expeditious actions of the local dealership, the matter was closed without any admission of fault by the dealership. Based on the refund given to the consumer the Consumer Protection Division elected to take no adverse action against the dealership and instead issues this warning to all consumers in Sedgwick County: Ask the seller if the car has been damaged or stolen before you buy any vehicle, whether new or used.

The District Attorney reminds residents the Kansas Consumer Protection Act requires suppliers to disclose to consumers all material facts. K.S.A. 50-626. It is the position of the Office of the District Attorney that if a vehicle is stolen from a dealership and must be repaired based on damage to the vehicle, the supplier must disclose to the consumer that the vehicle was both stolen and repaired. The Consumer Protection Division will take action against any dealership that fails to disclose such information to consumers. The goal is to provide consumers with all material information needed before they purchase a vehicle.

If you are looking to buy a new vehicle or have questions about what you should know before you buy, the Federal Trade Commission has resources to help you know what to ask when shopping for a new vehicle. Visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0209-buying-new-car> for more details.

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