

## Safer Seniors

As people grow older, their chances of being victims of crime decrease dramatically. However, they need to be more alert to frauds and con games — the greatest crime threat to seniors'.



### Be Alert When Out and About

- Go with friends or family, not alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

### Make Your Home Safe and Secure

- Install good locks on doors and windows and use them. Don't hide keys; instead leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well-lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies.

### Watch Out for Con Artists

- Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true — a free vacation; sweepstakes prizes; a low-risk, high yield investment scheme.
- Never give your credit card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize.
- Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything — an insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- If you're suspicious, check it out with the sheriff, the Better Business Bureau, or your local consumer protection office. You can also call the National Consumers League Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060.

### Get Involved in the Community

- Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement.
- Join a Neighborhood Watch to look out for each other and help the sheriff's office.
- Work to help improve your neighborhood. Volunteer as a citizen patroller, tutor for children, or office aide in the sheriff or fire department.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
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