

WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTISTS

■ Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true—a free vacation, sweepstakes prizes, cures for cancer and arthritis, low-risk/high yield investments and door-to-door “special” offers.

■ Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call and are sure who you are dealing with. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.

■ Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything — an insurance policy, a sales agreement, or a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.

■ Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations, or government agencies that offer to recover lost or unclaimed money for a fee.

■ If you're suspicious, check offers out with the police, the Better Business Bureau or the Office of Attorney General Toll-Free Senior Helpline at 1-866-623-2137.

www.attorneygeneral.gov

BE ALERT, BE INFORMED AND BE INVOLVED

Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement. Join a Neighborhood Watch to look out for each other and help the police. Work to improve conditions in your neighborhood.

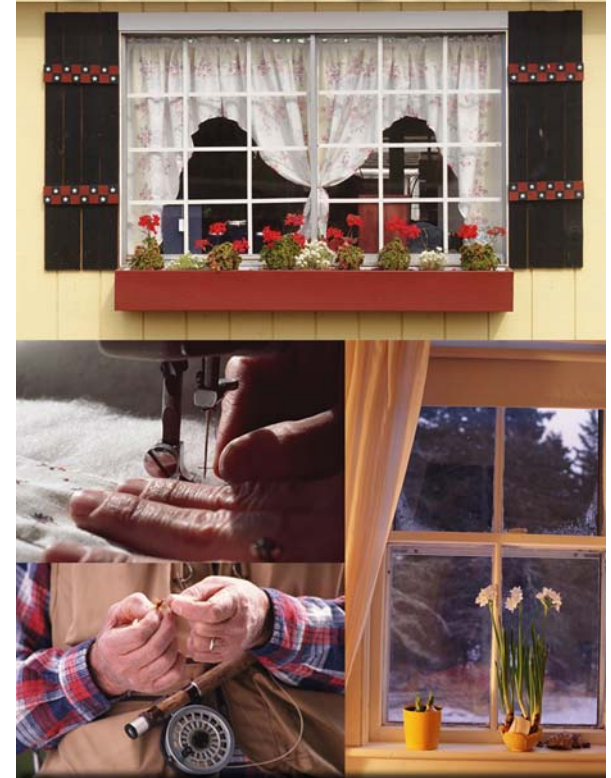
Does your community have a “Triad” Program? It's sponsored on a national level by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). Triad promotes partnerships between senior citizens and the law enforcement community, in an effort to prevent crime against the elderly and to help law enforcement benefit from the talents of older people. If you're interested, contact your chief of police, sheriff, or AARP chapter or call the NSA at 703-836-7827.

**The Office of Attorney General
Toll-Free Senior Helpline
1-866-623-2137**



**PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Safe
SENIORS



Research indicates that older citizens are more likely to be the victims of certain crimes like telemarketing fraud, purse snatchings, identity theft, fake check scams and estate and living trust scams. The Office of Attorney General believes that Pennsylvania's seniors should be enjoying the neighborhoods they helped build and the time they spend with their families and friends, rather than living in fear of crime.

All older Pennsylvanians should be aware of the kinds of crimes targetting seniors and the steps necessary to protect themselves from becoming crime victims. The common-sense precautions contained in this brochure are intended to help prevent common crimes and protect our seniors. Please help us to help you by reviewing and following these important safety measures.

**PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Safe SENIORS



BE ALERT WHEN OUT AND ABOUT

- Whenever possible, be in the company of friends or family.
- 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 your Social Security card or credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance in a well-lighted area.
- Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train or subway.
- 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. **Use them!** Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a close friend or relative.

Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify their identity.

Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstructions and well-lit 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.

Always place outgoing mail in a secure, locked USPS box. Do not place mail in a mailbox with the flag up.

Always arrange to have your mail and newspapers held when you are away – do not let them accumulate at your house, which signals thieves that you are not home.