

REMEMBER

- Banks, credit card companies and government offices never call you to verify your personal or account information.
- Law enforcement agencies will not contact you and demand that you make a payment of fines over the phone or internet.
- No one can win a lottery from a country they've never visited or a sweepstakes they didn't enter. "You have to play to win."
- No offer to share millions of dollars, recover wealth, or provide large sums of money for you to distribute to charity will require you to provide "front money." If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Beware of health care scams, never release information to any health service provider that you did not contact directly.

SCAMS THAT ARE BASED ON THESE SCENARIOS OCCUR EVERY DAY, ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE BEEN SCAMMED CALL AND REPORT IT TO LOCAL POLICE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELDER ABUSE HELPLINE.

1-866-623-2137



Seniors should look to become involved in safely preventing crime in their neighborhoods by joining with others in the community.

BE INVOLVED

- Report any crime or suspicious activity to local law enforcement, never intervene.
- Work to improve the conditions in your community.
- Join a neighborhood watch group.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) have joined to promote "TRIAD" programs. TRIAD encourages partnerships between senior citizens, businesses and law enforcement in an effort to prevent crime against the elderly and help the community to benefit from the talents of older adults. The NSA also has organized the National Neighborhood Watch to allow citizens to help in the fight against crime, it is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service. For more information contact your Chief of police, Sheriff, AARP chapter or call the NSA at (703) 836-7827.



ELDER ABUSE HELPLINE
1-866-623-2137
www.attorneygeneral.gov

P E N N S Y L V A N I A
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



SAFETY TIPS FOR
Seniors
FOR AT HOME AND OUT AND ABOUT



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Research indicates that older citizens are more likely to be victims of certain crimes like fraud, identity theft, scams and financial exploitation.

The Office of Attorney General believes that Pennsylvania's seniors should be enjoying the wealth they've earned, the neighborhoods they've helped to 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 targeting seniors and the steps necessary to protect themselves from becoming victims. The precautions contained in this brochure are intended to help prevent you from becoming a victim.

Our Education and Outreach Unit offers presentations on many of these topics, contact us to schedule a presentation at (717) 772-2424 or email senioruniversity@attorneygeneral.gov.

SAFETY TIPS FOR Seniors

FOR AT HOME AND OUT AND ABOUT

Pennsylvania has one of the highest senior populations in the country and our seniors are more active than ever. It is important that they are prepared when out socially, traveling or simply enjoying their home life.

BE ALERT

- Talk with family members and friends about your travel plans and daily activities.
- Be aware of your surroundings, walk in groups of two or more.
- Don't carry unneeded credit cards or your social security number with you.
- Never post your travel plans on social media sites.
- When driving, never pull off or park in a secluded area. Drive to a well light public place.
- Only use ATMs that are inside of a bank or business and shield your PIN from view of others. If the device appears to be altered, report it right away.

BE SECURE

- Close and lock windows when you leave the house, keep your doors locked at all times, even while you are at home.



- Don't let strangers into your home. Ask all delivery people and utility workers for ID.
- Never deal with a contractor who shows up unsolicited or with "left over materials." Always use a contractor that is registered with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.
- When you are gone for more than a day, make sure your home appears occupied — use automatic timers to turn on lights and a radio or television.
- Always place a hold request on mail and newspapers while away and also park a second vehicle in the driveway.
- Do not hide your keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places.

Many of our older citizens have worked for years to build their retirement funds and establish good credit, making them common targets for scammers, con artists and thieves.

NEVER

- Never give your personal information to anyone who contacts you and asks for it; only when you initiate the contact .
- Never send money, wire transfers or pre-paid cash cards to someone you do not know.