



Senior Citizen Crime Prevention

Senior Citizens are a rapidly growing population within the United States. Though crime is statistically low in this age group of 65 and older it nonetheless happens. They are most vulnerable to fraud, burglary, phone solicitation and various other criminal activities, and must be vigilant when it comes to preventing crime and violence from happening to them. As a resolution to this problem and to alleviate any fears, senior citizens should adopt the following practices:

- **Use** deadbolt locks at home on all doors to deter break-ins; seniors should keep them locked even when inside of the house.
- **Adopt** a pet, preferably a dog, if alarm systems are not affordable. Dogs protect their territory and are effective to keep unwanted persons away.
- **Don't** advertise living alone on an answering machine for either your home phone, or your cell phone.
- **Use** the initials of your first and middle name on junk mail or any mail sent to you.
- **Install** sensor and timed-lighting sensors inside and outside the home.
- **Identify** all strangers who come to your home by installing peepholes on the front, side, and back doors.
- **Know** your neighbors and have them check on you and vice versa.
- **Create** a neighborhood watch group.
- **Keep** all valuable items, papers, etc. in a safety deposit box at a bank and not in the home if possible. Safety deposit boxes in the home can be stolen.
- **Don't** carry large sums of money on your person when going to public places or stores.
- **Establish** direct deposits for all checks received on a regular basis.
- **Refrain** from exposing the contents of bags and purses on store counters and in shopping carts.
- **Never** reveal social security numbers, credit card numbers or passwords. Never wire money to an unknown location, or agree to pay upfront fees for loans, credit repair or cash advances. Never donate to a charity without verifying its legitimacy.
- **Engrave** your valuables with a number system all your own and keep the list in a safety deposit box at a bank.
- **Read** all contracts for home improvements, insurances, etc. carefully before signing. Take sufficient time to carefully review and understand contracts and not be coerced.

- **Park** in or near well-lit areas and be aware of surroundings. Have keys within reach when approaching the vehicle. Be alert when unloading packages and lock the car immediately once inside.
- **Beware** of on-line scams.
- **Don't** be a victim. Take charge and live life free of crime.

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