

## FRAUD PREVENTION

- ❖ Be suspicious of anyone who offers you a chance for quick and easy wealth.
- ❖ Be wary of exaggerated claims for health and medical products, such as cures for cancer or arthritis, hair restorers and quick weight loss. Before buying any cure-alls, check with your doctor, pharmacist or clinic.
- ❖ Never give your credit card, bank account number, or social security number to anyone over the phone.
- ❖ Check out any “work-at-home” schemes with your local or state consumer protection agency.
- ❖ Don't give credit cards, checkbooks or bank account numbers to your housekeeper or caretaker.
- ❖ Don't make an employee a joint-owner of your bank account or your property.



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# CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR SENIORS



**IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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In Partnership with the Community



# CRIME PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

These simple tips can help seniors protect themselves from being the victim of a crime.

## AT HOME

- ❖ Always keep your doors and windows locked. Exterior doors should always have dead bolts.
- ❖ Keep your home well lit at night.
- ❖ Never let a stranger into your home.
- ❖ Ask for identification from delivery or service personnel.
- ❖ Don't hide your key under your mat or other obvious places.
- ❖ Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time.
- ❖ When you are gone for more than a day, make sure your home looks and sounds occupied. Use an automatic timer to turn on lights, radio or TV.
- ❖ If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, do not go in! Leave quietly and call 9-1-1.
- ❖ Hang up immediately on harassing or obscene phone calls. If the caller persists, call law enforcement.



## IN YOUR CAR

- ❖ Always lock your car doors. Never leave keys in the ignition when you leave the car, even for a few minutes.
- ❖ When you drive, keep the doors locked and windows up. Park in well-lit, busy areas.
- ❖ Don't leave packages or other tempting articles in plain view in a locked car. Lock them in the trunk.
- ❖ Never give a ride to a stranger, even one that seems friendly or like they are in need.
- ❖ If you have car problems, be especially wary of strangers who offer help. Stay in the car and ask them to call a service truck and law enforcement.



## PROTECT YOUR MONEY

- ❖ Consistently review your bank account history and look for fraudulent transactions.
- ❖ Check your credit annually at a minimum.
- ❖ Only withdrawal money for yourself.
- ❖ Have Social Security checks directly deposited to your bank account.
- ❖ If you are a victim, report the crime to your local law enforcement agency.

