

Common Sense Crime Prevention for the Elderly

At The BANK

- **Many Criminals know exactly when government checks arrive each month, and may pick that day to attack.** Avoid this by utilizing Direct Deposit.
- You should **store valuables in a safe deposit box.**
- **Never give your money to someone who cold calls you** claiming to be someone from your bank.
- When someone approaches you with a **get-rich-quick-scheme** involving some or all of **YOUR savings**, it is **THEIR get-rich-scheme.** If it is a legitimate investment the opportunity to contribute your funds will be there after you are able to research the offer.



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AVOID IDENTITY THEFT

- **Never give out** by phone, e-mail or in person, personal information such as: date of birth, social security number, driver's license number, passport number, names of companies where you have credit, banks where have accounts, mother's maiden name and any other **personal data.**
- **Avoid leaving mail in your mailbox;** pick up promptly. Do not place outgoing mail in your mailbox, take it to the post office.
- **Review** your bank and credit card **statements often.**
- **Order your free credit report** once a year without it affecting your credit rating score.
- **Shred all** bank and credit card **statements** and cancelled checks before discarding.



Coping with Violent Crime

Crime Prevention Guide for the Elderly



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Crime and the fear of crime create special problems for you as an older person. Although you may not be a victim of a crime any more often than someone younger, here are some simple steps to follow that may help you feel more secure, be safe, protect your identity and avoid criminal victimization

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WALKING

- **Always Plan Your Route** and stay alert to your surroundings. Walk confidently.
- **Have a companion** accompany you.
- **Walk in well-lit areas.**
- **Have your key ready** when approaching your front door.
- **Don't dangle your purse** away from your body.
- **Don't carry large, bulky shoulder bags;** carry only what you need.



Be Aware of Your Surroundings

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At Your DOOR / HOME

- **Never open your door automatically.**
- At night, **draw your blinds.**
- **Lock your windows and doors,** including your garage doors.
- **Vary your daily routine.**
- **Use “Neighborhood Watch” to keep and eye on your neighborhood.** A concerned neighbor is often the best protection against crime because suspicious persons and activities are noticed and reported to police promptly.
- **Leave lights on** when going out at night; use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away for an extended period of time.
- **Don't leave notes on the door** when going out.
- **Don't place your keys under mats,** mailboxes, or other receptacles outside your door.
- **Notify neighbors when going away on a trip.** Cancel deliveries such as newspapers and have someone pick up your mail or place it on hold at the Post Office.
- **Be wary of unsolicited offers** to make repairs to your home. Deal only with reputable businesses'.
- **Don't hesitate to report crime or suspicious activities.**

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In Your CAR

- **Always Keep your car doors locked,** whether you are in or out of your vehicle.
- At stop signs and traffic lights, **keep the car in gear.**
- **Travel well-lit and busy streets.** Plan your route.
- **Don't leave your purse** on the seat beside you; put it on the floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it.
- **Lock bundles or bags in the truck.** If interesting packages are out of sight, a thief will be less tempted to break in to steal them.
- When returning to your car, **check the front seat, back seat and floor before entering.**
- **Never pick up hitchhikers.**

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In STORES

- **Don't display large sums of cash.**
- **Never leave your purse unattended.**