

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.
- Shred discarded documents such as bank statements, pre-approved credit card offers, and insurance forms that contain financial information.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name, birth date, or last four digits of your social security when creating a password.
- Never carry your social security card, birth certificate, or passport unless necessary.
- Do not put your credit card number on the internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site.
- Order your credit report at least twice a year. Correct all mistakes with the credit bureau.



CONTACT US



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SAFER SENIORS

Safe Seniors.
Stronger Communities.

BE ALERT WHEN OUT

- Go out with friends or family, not alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Don't carry credit cards you do not need, or excessive cash.
- Whether driving or riding, keep doors locked. Park near entrance.
- Sit close to 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 trusted neighbor or friend.
- 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.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well lighted so police or other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Consider adding a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies.

WATCH 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; a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account to anyone over the phone. 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 (insurance policy, sales agreement, or 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 money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, or the Better Business Bureau. You can also call the National Consumers League Fraud Information Center at (202) 835-3323.

