



## Crime Prevention for Senior Citizens

---

One of the best ways to take an active part in crime prevention is to become more alert and aware of what's going on around you.

### Avoid being a Victim of Fraud

If someone offers a deal that sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Yet every day people get taken in by different schemes.

Most con artists promise "incredible bargains" or "quick money." Unfortunately, senior citizens are just as vulnerable as everybody else when it comes to get-rich-quick schemes.

Swindlers are usually well-dressed, talkative and intelligent. After all, they are trying to win your confidence.

### Current Schemes to BEWARE of:

- **The Squirrel Scheme** usually two suspects working together con you into believing they saw a squirrel go into your home and voluntarily their services to extract the squirrel for a small fee. PLEASE NOTE: The North Dallas Area has been recently targeted.
- **Telemarketing Scheme** a telephone caller will identify himself as an employee for a bogus charity, or phony sweepstakes winner, or assisting criminal authorities asking for donations.
- **Home Repair Scheme** suspect go door to door soliciting yard work, roof repair, chimney sweeping, driveway paving, etc. They claim they can make you a good deal and when work is completed tell you it will cost more than initial quote.
- **Distraction/Utility Inspector Scheme** suspects use women and children to distract you while they enter the home to steal your property. They claim to work with the utility company and need to check the meter.

Note there are many and various Scams and Schemes not listed. Remember, anything that sounds too good to be true might be just that. So talk to your bank officer before withdrawing a large sum of money from your bank account to make a purchase or close a deal. Remember, most criminals look for the easiest way to get something of value.

Please call 911 if you believe you have been a victim of a scheme. For additional information please call The Dallas Police Department, Northwest Division at (214) 670-6206 or 214-670-6178. You can also find more information by visiting the Federal Bureau of Investigation, [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) or the Federal Trade Commission [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).