

Senior Citizen Alert!

How To Prevent Being A Victim Of A Crime

When You're Out

Women: Hold your purse close to your body, don't dangle it. Better still, don't carry a purse. Lock it in your trunk when you shop and carry essentials inside your coat or jacket.

Men: Never carry your wallet in your back pocket. Put it in the inside of jacket pocket or front pocket.

Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.

Avoid dark, deserted routes, even if they're the shortest.

Carry cell phone or change for emergency phone or calling cab in emergency.

Whenever possible, travel with friends to stores, banks, or doctor. Check with police or senior citizen services about escort services.

Sit near driver of bus if possible when using public transport.

Don't overburden yourself with packages that obstruct your view or make it hard to react.

Have car key or house key in hand as you approach them.

Carry a shriek alarm.

When you drive and as soon as you enter your vehicle lock doors and keep windows up.

Park in busy well-lighted areas.

If you have car trouble stay in your car. If someone offers to help, crack your window enough to be heard and ask them to call a service truck or the police. If you have a cell phone, call them yourself.

Don't be lured out of your car if someone points out that you have a flat tire. Drive to the nearest lighted gas station or call for help.

If a friend or taxi takes you home, ask them to wait until you are safely inside.

Always trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

When You're At Home

Use deadbolt locks on all doors. Keep them locked at all times even when going out briefly in the yard.

Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.

Invest in an alarm system if financially possible. They are statistically proven to be the best burglary prevention.

Make your home appear occupied when out for a while by using a timer to turn on lights and radio or TV.

NEVER open your door to strangers in your home without checking their identification by calling their company. Install a peephole and use it.

If you live alone, don't advertise it. Use only your first initial in phone books, directories, and apartment lobbies.

Get to know your neighbors and keep their phone numbers handy for emergencies.

Work out a "buddy" system with a friend or neighbor to check on each other.

Engrave your valuables with a unique identification number recommended by the police. It is usually your driver's license number. (Our Northwest Division police station has a marking pen you can use for free.)

Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom worn jewelry, and stamp and coin collections in a safe deposit box.

NEVER wear expensive jewelry or watches when going to the grocery store or other every day public places.

Don't hide extra keys under a doormat or other obvious spots.

Protect Your Money

If you receive checks in the mail regularly, arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank instead.

Don't carry large sums of money. If you must take a large sum, have a friend accompany you.

Don't display large amounts of cash in stores or other places.

Don't sign a check or contract until you're sure it's for a legitimate reason and know the details. Check with a friend, lawyers, or police officer if in doubt. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help.

Never put your purse or wallet on a counter while you examine merchandise in a store.

What If You Are Assaulted?

If the attacker is only after your purse or other valuables, don't resist. Your life and safety are worth more than your possessions.

Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of the attacker and call the police immediately.

Contact your local victim assistance agency to help you deal with the trauma that all crime victims experience. They can help you with counseling, victim compensation laws and how to follow your case's progress.

Don't Be Conned

Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept secret.

Don't rush into anything, especially if pressured by "this offer is only good until tomorrow" tactics.

Beware of investments that promise unusually large returns or “good deals” on expensive home repairs.

Don't let anyone talk you into buying anything because they tell you one of your neighbors have purchased it.

Beware of someone claiming you owe money for an item ordered by a deceased spouse or relative.

NEVER fall for the telephone scheme of someone claiming to be a distraught relative in need of money right away and asking you go to the bank immediately and withdraw a sum to send them or take to them.

NEVER give your social security number or credit card number to anyone on the phone unless you know them or have checked out their product or service with the Better Business Bureau.

NEVER open an email from someone you do not know. A virus may ruin your computer from that email.

NEVER fall for the hundreds of spam emails asking you to have large sums of money deposited to your account if you just give them your account number.