



PREVENTING SENIOR FRAUD

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Research shows, only about 1 in 25 fraud-related crimes are reported to Law Enforcement. Shame and embarrassment can play a role in a older adult's hesitation to talk about being scammed. Here are a few tips for family members to help seniors avoid falling victim to scams. [Click Here](#) for more information from AARP.

Help Protect Against Scams

- ☐ Insist that your senior utilize caller ID and an answering machine to screen calls. Add seniors to the national Do Not Call Registry for their land-line and consider installing a block system to reduce spam and robocalls on cell phones and landlines.
- ☐ Provide continuous reminders, including signage to never give out personal information , financial information or money over the phone. The rule to follow, "never provide any information on a call that you did not initiate."
- ☐ Always shred documents that could be useful to criminals, such as bank statements, credit card statements-offers, and any document with medical information. Documents that need to be maintained should be kept in a secure location.
- ☐ Post a "No Solicitation" notice near each exterior door of the seniors home. Consider setting up a P.O. Box to route mail, so it can be reviewed with the senior. Monitor for look-alike letters from fake charities, the Internal Revenue Service or Social Security Administration.
- ☐ Monitor new friendships, as seniors may feel lonely and vulnerable to criminals who take interest in them and provide companionship.
- ☐ Remember all technology has a learning curve. Educate senior loved ones about email, phony Apple-Microsoft virus and phishing scams.
- ☐ Seniors who are scammed may feel embarrassed and try to hide it. Watch for changes in lifestyle, financial or business activity. If a loved one can no longer handle their finances, encourage them to put a plan in place to ensure bills are paid and financial accounts are protected and monitored.

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