

PROTECT YOUR MONEY

- If you receive checks in the mail regularly, arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank.
- Avoid carrying large sums of money. If you must carry a large sum, have a friend accompany you.
- Do not display large amounts of cash.
- Do not sign a check or contract until you are sure it is for a legitimate reason. Know the details. If in doubt, check with a friend, a lawyer, or call the Police Department office at (707) 551-0600.
- Never put your purse or wallet on a counter while examining merchandise in a store.

DON'T BE CONNED

- Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept secret.
- Do not rush into anything. Check it out with friends, lawyers, police, or the Better Business Bureau (866) 411-2221.
- Be wary of unsolicited calls, texts, or emails asking for personal or account information related to your health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or Social Security.
- Check invoices carefully! Scammers will send you bills for products you never ordered, tricking you to pay.
- In the friend or grandparent scam, scammers impersonate friends or family members to trick worried people into wiring money to help with a fake emergency.
- Not all charities are the real deal. Scammers cash in on the generosity of donors, especially after natural disasters.
- If you are the victim of fraud, call the Police immediately (707) 253-4451. You may be embarrassed, but your information is vital in catching the con artist and preventing others from being victimized.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
(707) 253-4451

SAFER
SENIORS



GET CONNECTED

We want you to stay safe! Staying active in your community will help you feel safer, and help to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

- Exchange contact information with your immediate neighbors.
- Create a network to look out for one another.
- Be a window watcher - report any suspicious activity to (707) 253-4451.

WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME

- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are inside.
- Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.
- Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using a timer to turn on lights and a radio.
- Never allow repair or sales people into your home without checking their identification. Call their company to verify their identity if you are not sure.
- Install a viewer in your door and use it.
- Get to know your neighbors, and keep their telephone numbers handy for emergencies.
- Work out a buddy system with a friend to check on each other daily.
- Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom-worn jewelry, and stamp and coin collections in a safe deposit box.
- Do not hide extra house keys under a doormat or in other obvious spots.

WHEN YOU ARE OUT

- Carry your purse close to your body. Do not dangle it.
- Never carry a wallet in your back pocket. Put it in an inside jacket pocket or front pants pocket.
- Make sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Avoid dark, deserted routes even if they are the shortest.
- Carry change for phone and transportation emergencies.
- Whenever possible, travel with friends.
- When using public transportation, sit near the driver.
- Do not overburden yourself with packages and groceries that obstruct your view and make it hard to react.
- Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- Carry a whistle or freon horn to use to summon help.
- When you drive, keep doors locked and windows up. Park in well-lit, busy areas. If you have car trouble, be wary of strangers who offer help. Stay in your car and ask them to call a service truck or the police.
- If a friend or taxi takes you home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.
- When walking, act calm, confident, and know where you are going. Trust your instincts - if you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

