

Tips for Preventing Elder Fraud

- Do not give personal or financial information over the phone unless you know who you are speaking to. Verify identity by contacting the business with verified number (for example off of a bill).
- Be aware of Lottery phone scams. Calls about winning lotteries or sweepstakes are scams. These scammers will ask you to pay taxes or processing: usually to Canada.
- Be aware of the “Emergency Cash” or “Grandparent” phone scam. If a family member calls and states that they are out of the country and they need money for an emergency (accident or arrest), this is a common scam. Contact family members to verify the location of grandchildren.
- Be aware of internet scams. Do not respond to emails asking you to send money for various reasons:
 - Fix your computer
 - Won some type of money or contest
 - Because you owe money from a “Payday” or other type of loan
- Monitor your credit by obtaining a free (once per year) credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com
- Shred all bills and personal documents before placed in the trash with a “cross-cut” shredder. Also, secure your mail. Thieves steal outgoing mail to obtain checks.
- Do not carry your Social Security Card on your person unless needed that day.
- Do not leave purses or wallets unattended in places such as a vehicle or grocery cart. Monitor checking and savings accounts for fraudulent activity.
- Be aware that an image on a computer or Caller-ID cannot be used to verify who has contacted you. Both can be fabricated. Thieves use Caller-ID to impersonate authorities.
- Make a police report if an incident occurs. Officers in your home jurisdiction are required to take a report for Fraud even if the crime occurred elsewhere.