

Seniors' Safety Tips

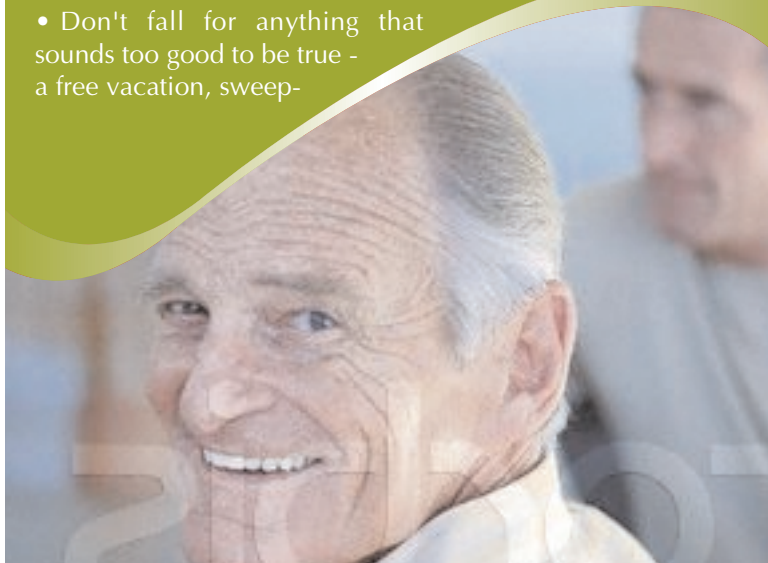
Seniors are often the target of fraudulent crimes due to their easy accessibility and their trusting nature. A number of tactics are used to steal money from them. There are several steps you can take to prevent something happening to you.

Delivery or Service Person at the Door?

- If possible, have all service and delivery people come by appointment or prior arrangement.
- If you don't want to be alone in the house when a service person comes to do work, arrange to have someone with you at the house.
- Never leave a service person in your home alone. If you can not be there, then arrange for someone else to be there or make another appointment.
- Ask for identification from any delivery or serviceperson who comes to your house.
- Never, ever give any money as a down payment until you have ascertained that they are legitimate.
- If it is a person offering to repair your roof, mow your grass or paint your house without solicitation from you, then do the following:
 - > Be polite, but firm
 - > Give yourself time to think
 - > Say "Sorry, but I never agree to buy or hire at the door. I am happy to accept written information about your business, goods or services, and I will contact you if I am interested."
- Don't fall for the old trick, "If you don't repair it now, it will be more costly later."
- If they still refuse to leave, then call the police.

Watch Out for Con Artists

- Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true - a free vacation, sweep-



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stakes prizes, cures for cancer and arthritis, a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.

- Never give your credit card or bank account number to anyone over the phone.
- Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything - an insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies or schools trying to raise money.
- If you're suspicious call the police.

Are You Sure It's a Charity?

There are hundreds of charities in Bermuda and Bermudians are in general, kind, compassionate and giving people. However, there are people out there who will take advantage of seniors by pretending to be from a charity. To prevent being taken in, do the following:

- Ask for the charity's registration number. All registered charities have one.
- Call the Centre on Philanthropy. They have a complete list of all registered charities.
- If it is a school trying to raise money, ask for the name of the principal of the school and verify it with him/her.
- If you are pressured to donate money then:
 - > Be polite and firm
 - > Tell the person that while you would like to assist them with their goal, you have specific charities that you donate to.
- If they still won't leave, call the police.

Remember, the thing a criminal most counts on with seniors is that they will be trusting and naïve. Make yourself aware and be reminded of these easy safety tips.

Useful Numbers:

Age Concern 238-7525
Centre on Philanthropy 292-5320
Police, Fire, Emergency 911
Seniors & Disabled 292-7802
Social Insurance 295-5151 ext 1131



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