

As you get older, your chances of being a victim of crime decreases dramatically. You may be on the lookout constantly for physical attack and burglary, but not as alert to frauds and con games—the greatest crime threat to seniors' well-being and trust. Conquer fear and reduce crime!!! Take these common-sense precautions to help protect yourself.



BE ALERT WHEN OUT AND ABOUT

- ◆ Go with friends or family, never alone.
- ◆ Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- ◆ Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.

- ◆ Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- ◆ Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance.

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE

- ◆ Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Don't hide keys in mailboxes, planters, or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor or friend.
- ◆ Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify.
- ◆ Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well-lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- ◆ Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire and medical emergencies.

- ◆ Ask your local law enforcement agency for a security evaluation of your home.



WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTISTS

- ◆ Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- ◆ Never give personal information over the phone. This includes your credit card, phone card, Social Security or bank account number to anyone over the phone.



- ◆ Don't let anyone pressure you into signing anything—an insurance policy, sales agreement, or any type of contract. Read It carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- ◆ Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- ◆ If you're suspicious, call the police, the Better Business Bureau, or you local consumer protection office.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION

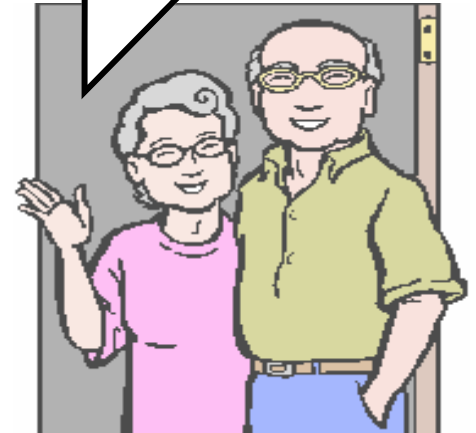
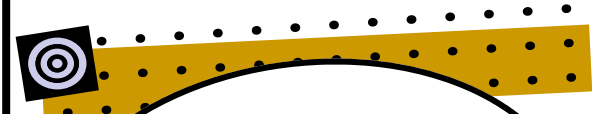
- ◆ **Who are elderly adult victims?** A person who is 65 or older.
- ◆ **What is abuse?** When a person suffers physical injury, sexual abuse, neglect or permits a situation where injury or danger could occur.

- ◆ **What is neglect?** Malnourishment or dehydration, inadequate hygiene or clothing, social isolation, lack of medical care, unsafe environment, abandonment or desertion.
- ◆ **What is exploitation?** Unusual bank or credit card activity, new acquaintances residing with the elder adult, a new “best friend”, giving power of attorney, forged or suspicious signatures, disconnected utilities.
- ◆ **Report, Report, Report.** Utah law requires you to report if you have a reason to believe an elder adult is being abused, neglected or exploited. You are protected if you report a suspicious situation. Let the authorities investigate! Call Adult Protective Services at 264-7669 or your local law enforcement agency.

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
Bluffdale Precinct



Senior Safety Tips



Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff James M. Winder



To report a crime:
Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office
Dispatch 743-7000
In an emergency call 911