



SENIOR CRIME PREVENTION



Volume 2

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Fraud & Con Games

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Here are some tips to alert you to fraud and telemarketing con games:

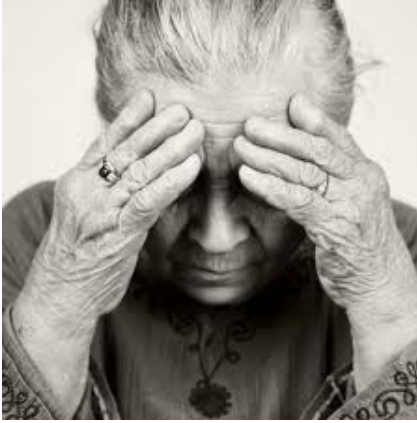
- ◆ You must act now!
- ◆ You've won a free gift or vacation.
- ◆ Pay only postage and handling.
- ◆ You can't afford to miss this "high profit, no risk" offer.



In your Car

- ◆ Know where you are going and how to get there.
- ◆ Maintain your vehicle in good working order, with ample gasoline;
- ◆ Plan your trip and take friends along;
- ◆ When possible, travel during daylight hours;
- ◆ Don't enter dark parking lots or deserted garages;
- ◆ Leave only your ignition key with parking attendant;
- ◆ Let someone know where you are going and your planned return time;
- ◆ When driving, lock your doors and windows; lock-up when you leave;
- ◆ If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest public place; and
- ◆ Never pick up hitchhikers.





If You Are a Victim of a Crime

- ◆ Don't resist;
- ◆ Never pursue your attacker;
- ◆ Call the police. Dial 9-1-1 in case of an emergency; and
- ◆ **REPORT CRIME!** You may have money returned and prevent further theft from yourself and others!



Seniors currently comprise 17% of the population of New Jersey. Seniors are living longer, healthier lives.

3 General Rules To Promote Senior Crime Prevention Are:

- ◆ **STAY ALERT!** Be tuned-in to your surroundings; don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and prepared, even in your own neighborhood.
- ◆ **STAND TALL!** Walk confidently, don't show fear, don't look like a victim.
- ◆ **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.



Secure Your Home

Never open the door to strangers; always insist on proper identification. If someone comes to your door with an emergency (for example, a traffic accident or an injury), **DON'T LET HIM OR HER IN!** Call 9-1-1 for them!

Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Always keep your doors locked. Have a peephole in the door so you can see a caller without opening it.

Don't rely on security chains; a determined assailant

can easily break them.

Protect windows and other points of entry with good locks or other security devices (such as a length of wooden doweling placed in a track to prevent a window or sliding glass door from opening).

Mark and record your personal property.

When you go out, make your home sound and appear occupied by using an automatic timer to turn on interior lights and a radio. Keep the outside premises well lit at

night. Do not leave your key under the mat or in a flower-pot. Use outdoor lighting, shrubbery, fencing to help secure your home. Consider electronic surveillance systems, alarm systems and/ or a dog to enhance your home security.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is increasing at an alarming rate, according to the National Crime Prevention Council. According to the NCPC, every five seconds an elder is abused.

While N.J. has the highest number of reported cases, the state has one of the highest percentages in relation to the senior population. N.J. has 17% of the states total popula-

tion and had 176,000 reported cases in 2010.

By being alert to situations that could lead to abuse of an elderly person, you may be able to prevent a serious injury or save a life. Look for any unusual unexplained bumps, bruises or cuts. Look for unusual changes in behavior. If you don't hear from elderly friends for several days stop by

and check on them. Be alert of salesmen at elderly friends homes. Look to see if elderly friends homes are unusually unkempt or if they begin to look malnourished.



“A test of a people is how it behaves toward the old. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mines of a culture.”
~ Abraham J. Heschel

Convalescent Homes

When choosing a home, look at the surroundings. Check inside & outside the home for cleanliness. When walking inside smell the air. It should smell clean and fresh. Look at the home's equipment to make sure it is not outdated and is in good working order. Talk to employees about the condition of the home and their work environment.

The following is a list of possible signs of abuse and neglect in a convalescent home:

- ◆ Physical abuse- Rough handling or grabbing, hitting, or slapping.
- ◆ Neglect- Untreated medical condition, dehydration, malnutrition, bedsores, rashes, sores, lice, over or under medicated.
- ◆ Sexual Assault- Rape, sodomy, or sexual battery.
- ◆ Emotional- Verbal threats of punishment, constant harassment, threat of withdrawal of services.
- ◆ Financial- Theft of personal effects, overcharging for services, fraudulent billing for non-services.

Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver Protects Wandering Patients and Gives Peace of Mind to Caregivers, Families and Communities.

Project Lifesaver is an innovative and rapidly growing program aiding the victims and families suffering Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders such as Down's Syndrome and Autism. Project Lifesaver uses state-of-the-art technology employing wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost adults and children.

Over 5,000,000 people in the USA have Alzheimer's. That number will triple by 2050. Well over 50% of these people wander and become lost. A lost person with Alzheimer's or other dementia represents a critical emergency as nearly half of them will die and many can become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours. The number of people, families and communities experiencing this risk will grow dramatically in this decade.

If you are not yet touched in some way by Alzheimer's or related disease, chances are you will be within the next several years.

You will find it among neighbors, your friends, co-workers and their families, and perhaps within your own family.

How Project Lifesaver Works

Project Lifesaver is much more than a passive ID bracelet. It is an active system that relies on state-of-the-art technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. People who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In hundreds of searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.

The Project Lifesaver CARE TRAK bracelet is much more than a passive ID bracelet. It is a one-ounce battery-operated radio wrist transmitter emitting an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal is tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team positively locates and identifies the person who has wandered away from home or a care facility.

Technology is Only Half the Story

Members of the Project Lifesaver team are specially trained, not only in use of the electronic tracking equipment, but especially in the methods to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's disease or related disorder. Locating the individual is only part of the mission. The person who is located will be disoriented, anxious, and untrusting. The Project Lifesaver teams know how to approach the person, gain their trust and put them at ease for the trip back home.

Educational and community awareness programs have been a cornerstone to Project Lifesaver's success. Project Lifesaver team members are also active in presenting information to civic groups, law enforcement agencies and various healthcare providers throughout their communities.

For more information about this program please contact: Sgt. Lisa Zaccagnino

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