



## 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; lockup 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!



You may contact the Los Angeles Police Department by calling the following, toll free, at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired. You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department's Web site at [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org) and clicking on the "Crime Prevention Tips" icon.

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or activity, please contact your local police station or the LAPD crime hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).

Los Angeles Police Department  
Community Relations Section  
Crime Prevention Unit  
150 North Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 485-3134  
[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)

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## Senior Crime Prevention

[www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)



Seniors currently comprise 4.5 percent of the population of California. Seniors are enjoying longer, healthier lives, and by the year 2020, 16 percent of California's population will be 60 years of age or older. Seniors often worry about crime. The truth is, seniors are victims of crime less often than younger people, but the effect of crime on seniors is often more severe.

## 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 flowerpot. Use outdoor lighting, shrubbery and fencing to help secure your home. Consider electronic surveillance systems, alarm systems and/or a dog to enhance your home security. Consult with your Area Senior Lead Officer for personalized home security tips. If you believe you have been swindled, call the police, your State or local Consumer Affairs Office, the District Attorney's Office, or your State Attorney General. Con artists count on the reluctance of their victims to acknowledge they have been tricked. Don't delay report them right away. If you never report the incident, con artists will cheat again and again.

## Elder Abuse

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.

If elder abuse is suspected, contact the Elder Abuse Hotline for Los Angeles County at (800) 992-1660.

## Convalescent Home Crimes

Often convalescent home crimes and related quality of life issues go unreported. These crimes and issues usually go unreported because seniors fear retaliation for reporting crimes by their caretakers. Seniors may also think that no one cares about them or what happens to them.

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/Psychological Abuse** - Verbal threats of punishment, constant harassment, threat of withdrawal of services
- **Financial Abuse** - Theft of personal effects, overcharging for services, fraudulent billing for non-services.

## What to Look for in Selecting a Convalescent Home

When choosing a home, look at the surroundings. Check inside and 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 condition. Talk to employees about the condition of the home and their work environment.