



From 2 to 10 percent of the elderly population are physically or mentally abused. Although it is generally recognized that Elderly Abuse is vastly underreported it is believed that 2.5 million incidents of abuse occurs each year. Elderly Abuse directly affects the quality of life. Mistreated seniors are more likely to die within three years than those who are not abused.

Indicators of Abuse:

- **Fractures or dislocations**
- **Abrasions or burns**
- **Bruising**
- **Low self-esteem**
- **Overly anxious or withdrawn**
- **Extreme changes in mood**
- **Suicidal behavior**
- **Poor hygiene**
- **Confusion or disorientation**

REMEMBER
Dial 911 in an Emergency

Important phone numbers and websites:

Madison County Sheriff's Office:
Non-Emergency: (618)692-4433
Fax: (618)656-1210
Emergency: **911**
Anonymous Tip Line: (618)296-3000
Website:
<http://www.co.madison.il.us/Sheriff/Sheriff.shtml>

Madison County State's Attorney's Office:
Phone Number: (618)692-6280
Fax: (618)296-7001
Elder Abuse Division: (618)692-6280
Email: SAinfo@co.madison.il.us
Website: <http://www.madco-sa.org/>

State of Illinois Department on Aging
Senior Helpline: 1-800-252-8966
TTY: 1-888-206-1327
24 hour Elder Abuse Hotline:
1-866-800-1409
TTY: 1-800-544-5304
Website: www.state.il.us/aging

Illinois Attorney General
Metro East IL Regional Office (Belleville)
(618)236-8616
TTY: (618)236-8616
Springfield IL, Main Office
(217)782-1090
TTY: 1-877-844-5461
Senior Citizens Consumer Fraud Hotline:
1-800-243-5377
TTY: 1-800-964-3013
Website: www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov

NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY
1-888-382-1222

Credit Report and Identity Theft
www.annualcreditreport.com



**Crime Prevention Tips
for Senior Citizens**

Today approximately one in every eight Americans must face the realities of aging . Being victimized seems among the cruelest of inequities, especially to the elderly. When asked, most elderly people say they worry about crime and becoming a victim.

By following these tips the elderly can help in not becoming the victim of crime.

Tips to Remember

When Driving:

- Always lock your car doors.
- Never leave your keys in the ignition.
- Park in well lit, busy areas.
- Lock all valuable items in the trunk.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If you have car trouble stay in the vehicle. Ask anyone who stops to call law enforcement and a tow truck.

On the Bus:

- Stay alert!
- Use busy, well lit, bus stops.
- Walk directly to a place where there are other people.
- If possible sit at the front of the bus, near the driver.

When at Home:

- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Keep doors locked, even when inside.
- Protect sliding glass doors and windows with good locks or other security devices.
- Ask for, and verify, identification before letting a stranger into your home.
- Use only your initials in the phone book.
- Have more than one phone in the house.
- Hang up immediately on harassing phone calls.
- Use direct deposit.
- Keep your valuables in a safety deposit box.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Post all emergency phone numbers in an easily accessible location.

Out and About:

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Make brief eye contact with approaching strangers.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.
- Carry only a small change purse with just what you need inside.
- Keep your wallet in your jacket or front pocket of pants.
- Be conservative with cash and expensive jewelry.
- Stick to well lit, busy, areas when walking.
- Have your keys ready before exiting a building.
- Don't carry numerous packages with you.

While many types of crime can involve any age, frauds, scams, purse snatching, pick pocketing, theft of checks from the mail, and crimes in long term care facilities claim more older than younger victims.



Statistics show that violent crimes against the elderly are rare as compared to other age groups. This low victimization rate may be attributed to their lifestyles which limit the amount of time they spend out in the evening and their contact with likely offenders. This does not safeguard them from becoming victims of violent crimes.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED

- If the attacker is only after your purse or wallet **DO NOT RESIST**. Your life and safety are worth more than your possessions.
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of the attacker.
- Call your local police agency immediately.
- Contact your local victims assistance agency.

Loss of money can be critical for anyone with limited financial resources, but for many senior citizens it can be devastating. Below are a few examples of scams used to exploit the elderly:

Confidence Games—include a broad array of scenarios to get cash. The offender promises money in exchange for use of their account (bank or credit card).

Telemarketing—Offenders call homes and use high pressure tactics to solicit money for fraudulent investments, insurance, policies, travel packages, charities and sweepstakes.

Mail—Fraudulent prize and sweepstakes operations often mail materials. The mailings look official and use extensive personalization.

Face to Face—Some frauds involve products and services such as home or auto repairs. Offenders make contact at home or a place a business promising work in exchange for money.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

- Don't give out details about your credit cards or bank accounts.
- Don't give out your social security number, date of birth, home address, or any personal information over the phone, especially if you did not generate the call.
- Check out anyone offering services in exchange for work or products.
- Do not send money up front.
- Never make cash transactions in secret.
- Do not give credit cards or checking/savings account passbooks to your housekeeper or caretaker.