

June, 2007

FRAUD ALERT!

Top 10 Ways to Prevent Fraud in 2007

10. Don't withdraw or wire money at the suggestion of a stranger who claims you've won the lottery, found a lot of money or wants help distributing money to charity.
9. Only hire licensed contractors that you've checked and never do business with door-to-door contractors or those asking for money in advance.
8. Have Social Security and other benefit checks direct deposited in your account; mail checks inside the Post Office or use online banking; have new boxes of checks sent to your bank rather to your home; use a cross-cut shredder.
7. Don't keep your purse, checkbook, laptop computer or other identifying info in your car and, keep your car locked at all times.
6. Don't carry your Social Security card or checkbook in public, and keep your wallet in a hidden or secure pouch – not your purse.
5. Get your free credit report every year from all 3 credit bureaus (www.annualcreditreport.com or 1-877-322-8228) and consider putting a Security Freeze on your credit.
4. Never sign legal papers, make an investment, or sign mortgage documents without reading and understanding what you're signing – no matter how much you know or trust someone. Get a second or third opinion from a banker, attorney, CPA or other trusted advisor.
3. Choose your Power of Attorney with care and set up a system of checks and balances so no one person has complete control.
2. Don't talk to strangers on the phone, at your door or on the street.
1. If in doubt, ASK! Call the Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force for more information on scams and fraud!

For more information or to report a scam- contact any one of the Task Force members:

BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE-
FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY
WWW.CRIMESAGAINSTOLDERADULTSBUCKS.ORG 1-800-490-8505

Bucks County District Attorney's Office
215-348-6344
Bucks County Consumer Protection
215-348-6060
Bucks County Register of Wills
215-348-6265

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
215-348-0510
Network of Victim Assistance
1-800-675-6900
Bucks County Coroner
215-348-3852