

# C R I M E P R E V E N T I O N

## At Home

Always keep your doors and windows locked. Install dead-bolt locks in all doors

Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out, and keep your curtains closed at night

Install a peephole in your front door so you can see callers without opening the door

Ask for proper identification and the purpose of the visit from delivery people or strangers

Never let a stranger into your home. If a stranger asks to use your telephone, offer to place the call for him

Never give out information over the phone indicating that you are home alone or detailing when you will not be home

Hide your key in a place that is not conspicuous

Report suspicious activities (Call 911)

Do not keep large sums of money or valuables at home

Recently seniors have become the targets of violent crimes, both in their homes and out.

## While You Are Out

Carry only as much cash as needed

Carry your purse very close to you - don't dangle it from your arm

Avoid situations and locations that could invite crime - dark alleys, unlit parking lots, etc

Avoid walking alone at night

## In Your Car

Keep your gas tank full and your engine properly maintained to avoid breakdowns

Always lock your car door, even when you're inside and keep your windows rolled up

Lock packages and other valuables in the trunk. Do not leave them on the back seat or on the floor of the car where potential thieves can see them

Park in well lit areas

When you return to your car, always check the front and back seat before you get in

Never pick up hitchhikers

Avoid driving & parking in isolated places

Keep safe.

# FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Do not discuss your finances with strangers.

Get to know your bank manager.

Have a will drawn up and notarized by a lawyer who is sensitive to seniors issues.

Arrange to have your pension cheques deposited directly into your bank account.

Keep your money in a bank or financial institution, not at home.

If unable to do your own banking, entrust a relative or friend - make this person known to your bank manager / lawyer / relatives.

Have a person you trust review documents before you sign them.

Do not give either your ATM card or password to anyone.

Set cash withdrawal limits on your account.

Be wary of anyone pressuring you to sell your house.

Remember, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Always ask for identification from all solicitors and call their agency for verification.

Don't commit yourself to purchases or charitable donations over the phone. Ask the caller to mail you the information.

Beware of these lines: once in a lifetime ♦ get rich quick ♦ something for nothing ♦ you must act now.

Check with the Consumer Association of Canada or the Better Business Bureau before committing to any suspect purchases.

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**For More Information Please Contact:**

The BC Institute  
Against Family Violence

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## SAFETY TIPS

for

# SENIORS



Crime Prevention  
Financial Safety  
Consumer Protection

BC Institute Against  
Family Violence