

IMPORTANT SAFETY
NUMBERS

- Secretary of State's Office Consumer Hotline
1-800-269-5428
- Better Business Bureau
617-426-9000
- Old Colony Elderly Services
1-800-242-0246
1-800-922-2275 Hotline
- South Shore Elder Service
1-781-848-3910
1-800-922-2275
- National Fraud Information Center
1-800-876-7060
- AG's Office Consumer Protection Info
617-727-8400
- Coastline Elder Services
508-999-6400

Safety Tips for Seniors



Office of Plymouth County
District Attorney

Timothy J. Cruz



A proud supporter of the TRIAD initiative

32 Belmont Street
P.O. Box 1665
Brockton, MA 02303
Phone: 508-584-8120
Fax: 508-586-3578
www.mass.gov/da/plymouth

SENIOR
PROTECTION
UNIT

Safety Tips for
Seniors



Timothy J. Cruz

District Attorney
Plymouth County

32 Belmont Street
Brockton, MA 02301

508-584-8120
Fax: 508-586-3578

A MESSAGE FROM
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TIM CRUZ



As your District Attorney, I am committed to aggressively prosecuting criminals who victimize elders in our community.

The goal of the Senior Protection Unit in my office is to bring the elements of law enforcement, community outreach, social services and concerned citizens together in the battle against elderly crime.

All citizens have the right of protection from emotional, financial and physical abuse. Our seniors have worked hard and deserve to enjoy their retirement years without the fear of abuse.

If you suspect any kind of elder abuse, I urge you to call the District Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim J. Cruz".

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

Practical Safety Tips

Heed your own advice. Never talk, or open your door to a stranger. You should never give out any personal information about yourself or your family to anyone, or any business that you are not familiar with.

A door with a peephole. Is a safe way to see who is at your door. It is important to know who is on the other side of your door prior to it being opened. Once it is opened you could be at risk.

Fraudulent telephone solicitations. Beware of any postcard or voice message promising cash and prizes. Most require you to call an "800" or "900" number. In order to collect the reward, the caller is required to leave their credit card number to "verify their identity". It is the perfect opportunity for your credit card number to be stolen, as well as your identity! Beware, you could also be charged for the call on your next phone bill.

Too good to be true. If something sounds too good to be true it probably is. Take the time to stop and check out the validity of an offer prior to accepting it. This might save you some time, money and most of all- **aggravation.**

Charities. Do not make a donation to an unknown charity. Ask for their telephone number so you can call them back. If a caller is uncooperative in answering your questions, simply hang up the phone.

Safety Tips While Away from Home.

Notify the police if you are going away from your home for an extended period of time.

Install timers that will turn on and off some inside and outside lights, and your television at irregular intervals.

Ask a neighbor to check on your property while you are away. You may even want to ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway.

Never leave messages on your door for anyone. This is a clear indicator that you are not home.

Never allow newspapers, trash or the mail to pile up. Be sure to notify your newspaper carrier and The Post Office to hold your delivery until you return.

REPORT! Report suspicious persons or offers promptly to your local police.

While on the Web

Be sure to check out AARP's website it is full of interesting facts and tips!

www.aarp.org