

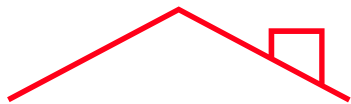


# SAFE SENIORS

*Presented by Your*  
**PITT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Sheriff Paula S. Dance**    [www.PittCountySheriff.com](http://www.PittCountySheriff.com)

The Pitt County Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring the safety of our senior citizens. Our seniors are vulnerable to various risks, including accidents, health issues, and potential exploitation. Recognizing and addressing the unique safety needs of seniors becomes imperative to promote their independence, health, dignity, and overall quality of life.



## **SAFETY IN THE HOME**

- Don't open the door for strangers; insist on proper identification.
- If someone comes to your door with an emergency (for example, a traffic accident), don't let them in. Call 911 for them.
- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Always keep your doors locked.
- Have a peephole in the door so you can see without opening it.
- Protect windows and other points of entry with solid locks or other security devices.
- Consider using an automatic timer to turn on interior lights and a radio or TV when away for the evening. Keep the outside well lit at night.
- Do not leave a spare key under the mat, in a flowerpot, or other common location where thieves could find it.
- Consider electronic surveillance systems, alarm systems and/or a dog to enhance your home security.

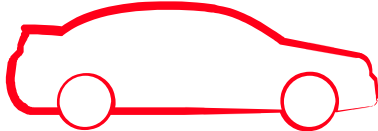
If you're suspicious, call our office at 252-830-4141 and request a deputy.



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## SAFETY IN THE CAR

- Maintain your vehicle in good working order, with ample gasoline.
- Plan your trip and take friends along.
- When possible, travel during daylight hours.
- Let someone know where you are going & when you will return.
- When driving, lock your doors and windows.
- Always keep your car locked when unattended. Even at home.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Park in well lit areas.
- Don't attach anything to your keys with your name and address on it just in case they are lost.



## SAFETY AT THE ATM

- Go inside your bank.
- Go during daylight hours.
- Choose a busy ATM location.
- Take a friend with you.
- Preplan your transaction.
- Put your money away quickly.
- If someone offers to let you go ahead of him or her at the ATM machine, decline and leave.
- If someone approaches your car at the drive through ATM, roll up your window and leave.
- If you begin to feel uncomfortable during a transaction, press cancel, get your card, and leave.
- If possible, arrange for direct deposit of incoming checks.



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## SAFETY FROM SCAMS

If you are offered a deal that sounds too good to be true, it usually is. Most people think they could not be tricked, fooled or conned into handing over money for fraudulent situations. But it happens often. Con artists are experts in human psychology and behavior.

They know how to gain your confidence with smooth talk or high-pressure. You can't recognize a con artist by the way someone looks or sounds, but you can be on the alert for for them. Protect yourself!

Phone calls is a common method of stealing from senior citizens. Phone-based frauds spend a lot of time practicing so you will fall for it. Here are some things that can alert you their scams:

- You have to act right now!
- You've won a free gift or vacation.
- You only pay the postage and handling.
- You have to send money, give a credit card number, a bank account number or have a check picked up by a carrier before you can carefully consider the offer.
- You must pay with pre-paid gift cards over the phone. **NEVER DO!**
- You can't afford to miss this "high profit, no risk" offer.
- You "won" any contest although you didn't enter it.
- We are the "police" and you are in "trouble" and owe us money.

If you hear these or similar lines, investigate further.



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## SAFETY FOR YOUR STUFF

Through our House Check Program, you can request extra patrol and security checks at your homes while you are on vacation, in the hospital, or away for extended periods of time for whatever reason. This service is only offered to citizens with the Sheriff's Office as your primary law enforcement response agency. If you live in a city, town, or village with a police department who handles your law enforcement needs, your extra patrol request will need to be filed with them. To request extra checks go to our website at [www.pittcountysheriff.com/house-check](http://www.pittcountysheriff.com/house-check) or call (252) 830-4141.



## SAFETY CALLS

Another service we offer is the Senior Check Program. Each day between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm a Sheriff's Office volunteer calls each senior who is registered in our program to check on them. If the volunteer does not get an answer, a deputy is sent to check on the senior in person. To learn more about the program contact Clemmie German at (252) 902-2727 or [clemmie.german@pittcountync.gov](mailto:clemmie.german@pittcountync.gov).

Sheriff Paula Dance and all the men and women who make up your Pitt County Sheriff's Office would like to thank you for allowing us to serve you. If we can do anything to assist you please let us know. We can be reached at (252) 902-2800 and (252) 830-4141. You will find lots of resources on our website at [www.pittcountysheriff.com](http://www.pittcountysheriff.com) and we are on social media on Facebook and Twitter. **STAY SAFE! WE CARE!**

