



PLAY IT SAFE

You Can Protect Yourself from Con Artists

Each of the following suggestions is an example of how folks like yourself were tricked or conned into spending their money, or were robbed by crafty strangers. Don't let it happen to you!

BEWARE

- NEVER reveal all or part of your credit card number(s), Social Security number or bank account number(s) to ANY CALLER for ANY REASON!
- If you receive a post card or letter marked "Official Notification" or "Final Notice" or "48 Hour Notice," informing you that you are a contest winner but you must call a 1-800 number to receive a "free" gift. Be careful. That "gift" might cost YOU money in the end!
- Of high pressure sales tactics offering to sell products at reduced prices, or secret deals, or no-risk, high-yield investments. Don't spend a dime until you check on the company first!
- Of ANY OFFER from ANYONE who promises -- if you send a contribution -- that they will fight for you to make sure you keep receiving your Social Security check or Medicare insurance coverage!
- Of anyone posing as a government or company official asking your help to "catch a criminal." Call the police immediately -- it's a trick!
- If notified you were selected a winner in a contest BUT to receive the prize you must send money to cover the tax and the handling fee. Save your money! The value of the "prize" may not match what you have to pay!
- Before you admit any stranger into your home. NO MATTER THE REASON - NO MATTER HOW INSISTENT THEY ARE, check on them first, even call the police if necessary!

B E W A R E

- **NEVER** hire anyone to build or repair anything until you check on them and the quality of their work first. Tell them you want references. If they refuse -- call someone else!
- When calling any 1-900 number, remember, the call will **COST YOU** from 95 cents to \$4.25 a minute, or sometimes a flat \$30 fee, and the charge will appear on your next telephone bill!
- **NEVER** pay for **ANYTHING** you didn't order yourself, regardless of what you are told!
- Don't tell anyone you live alone. **NEVER** talk about your money with a stranger and **NEVER, NEVER** keep or hide large amounts of money in your home. A robber can **ALWAYS** find it!
- Don't be fooled by anyone offering a refund information service to obtain a return of your money lost in a previous consumer trap. This new angle is just the latest con game!
- Giving to charities is an admirable quality, but sometimes, if you give too much, too often, you could become a charity case yourself!

Have a Question or Concern ... Or Feel You've Been a Victim of a Con?

Contact the local Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection
toll-free 1-800-441-2555 for free confidential help.
www.attorneygeneral.gov

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