



SHERIFF GREGORY TONY

and the men and women of the Broward Sheriff's Office are committed to protecting our senior communities. Crime prevention is a shared responsibility. Learn how to protect yourself by following these important safety tips.



PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

Identity theft is a crime that can have long-lasting consequences. Reduce the chances of falling victim to this deceitful crime by following these important tips.

STAYING SAFE

AT HOME

- Always lock your doors and windows, and only open your door to people you know.
- Always ask for proper identification from delivery persons or strangers.
- Vary your daily routine.
- Leave lights on when going out at night, and use a timer to turn lights on and off when you are away.
- Notify neighbors and the police when going out of town.

- Cancel deliveries such as newspapers, and ask the post office to hold your mail, or ask a neighbor to collect it for you.
- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, **DO NOT GO IN**. Call 911 immediately.

WHILE OUT SHOPPING

- Carry as little cash as possible.
- Carry your purse close to your body, and **NEVER** leave it unattended in a shopping cart.

- Do not overload your hands. Condense shopping bags and packages into as few bags as possible.
- Approach your vehicle with your keys ready. Be alert to your surroundings, and avoid distractions – especially your cellphone.

WHILE OUT WALKING

- Plan your route in advance. Stay alert to your surroundings, and walk with a companion.

- If you must walk at night, choose the busiest, best-lit streets.
- Leave valuables at home.
- Be wary of strangers who attempt to start meaningless or odd conversations.
- Have your key ready when approaching your front door.
- If you see someone suspicious or are attacked, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle.

WHILE DRIVING

- Always keep your car doors locked.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- **NEVER** leave your valuables on the passenger seat – especially while pumping gas.
- Secure bags or other items out of view or in the trunk prior to reaching your destination.

- Always safeguard your social security number.
- Keep your PINs secret. Do not use the same PIN for everything, and **NEVER** keep them written down in your wallet or purse.
- **NEVER** give out personal information to a stranger.
- When online, never click on links sent in unsolicited emails.
- Use firewalls, anti-spyware and anti-virus software to protect your computer.
- Shred financial documents and paperwork.
- Do not use easy-to-guess passwords.
- Inspect your financial statements and bills regularly for suspicious activity.
- Get a free credit report from www.annualcreditreport.com.



Sheriff Gregory Tony
sheriff.org

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IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CRIME, call 911 or dial BSO's non-emergency number: **954-764-HELP (4357)**.
To report scammers or any other suspicious activity anonymously, please call Broward Crime Stoppers at **954-493-8477**. For more information, please visit sheriff.org.

BSO VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

- **COP PROGRAM** – Citizens on Patrol volunteers are local residents who help BSO fight crime by patrolling their community, looking out for suspicious activity or potential hazards and offering assistance to local residents. For more information, please visit sheriff.org.
- **SHERIFF'S POSSE** – The Sheriff's Posse consists of volunteers who assist deputies countywide in the field and provide skills and equipment necessary to help protect and serve the community. This unit was developed to allow citizen participation in activities that enhance community awareness, ensure adequate resources to deter crime, assist the community with special events and provide additional trained personnel to render aid and assistance during natural disasters and other operations. For more information, please visit sheriff.org.
- **TRIAD** – A partnership between the BSO, the Broward County Chiefs of Police and the AARP, TRIAD aims to reduce the criminal victimization of senior citizens and enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to Broward County's elderly population. For further information about TRIAD, please contact BSO's Youth & Neighborhood Services at **954-321-4100**.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Criminals are constantly finding new ways to target seniors, and they are getting more and more creative. Avoid becoming a victim by following these important tips.

- Do not make online purchases from an unfamiliar company.

- Do not open email solicitations or provide personal information to anyone who you did not directly contact.

- Never send money or give out personal information to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.

- Always ask for and

wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity before making any donations.

- Be wary of companies that want to send a representative to your home to pick up money, claiming it is part of their service to you.
- Do not pay in advance for services; pay only after they are delivered.



- Always take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies will not pressure you to make a snap decision.
- Always trust your gut instinct. If something does not seem right or is out of the ordinary, it is most likely a scam.

HOW CAN BSO HELP YOU?

The Broward Sheriff's Office offers various programs focused on reducing senior crime and victimization. Help us help you, and learn more about how you can get involved.

BSO CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

- **OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET** Help prevent prescription drug abuse and misuse by emptying

your medicine cabinet of unwanted or expired medications and disposing of them at BSO "take back" events. Check sheriff.org for a list of upcoming event dates and locations, or call **954-831-8902**.

- **SHRED-A-THON** BSO offers residents the opportunity to shred information-sensitive documents free of charge. Check sheriff.org for a list of upcoming event dates and locations, or call **954-831-8902**.

- **BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL SECURITY SURVEYS** Business and residential property owners can receive a **FREE** security survey to reduce the likelihood of burglary and theft. For more information, please contact the local BSO district office where your home or business is located.

- **VACATION HOME WATCH PROGRAM** A BSO representative will check on your home regularly while you are on vacation. For more information, please contact your local BSO district office. Visit sheriff.org/LE.

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