

**Placer County District Attorney's Office  
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**HOW DO I AVOID BEING A VICTIM?**

- Purchase and use cross-cut shredders
- When using ATM cards, never give your pin number to anyone
- When paying your credit card accounts by check, never put the entire account number on the check...only write down the last four digits
- Order free credit report at least twice a year [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) (Trans Union, Experian, and Equifax) or call 1-877-322-8228. You can also write to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281
- Consider using your initials for your first and middle name on checks and don't print your telephone number. When ordering new checks, have them delivered to your bank.
- Photocopy all of the contents in your wallet...both front and back
- Monitor bank and credit card statements monthly
- Choose a caregiver with caution
- Keep an inventory of all jewelry-written appraisals and photos
- Protect your incoming and outgoing mail
- Before having work done to your home, check a contractor's license number online at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or by calling (800) 321-2752, always get a written contract, never pay more than 10% down or \$1,000, whichever is less, and get multiple bids.
- Create a barrier between you and the solicitor, i.e. metal screen door, storm door and before letting inspectors into your home, verify with their employer they are legitimate.
- Consider allowing your bank to send a duplicate copy of your monthly statement to a trusted family member or professional advisor
- You will never win the Nigerian or Canadian lottery
- Get into the habit of discussing transactions/purchases over \$1,000 with a trusted family member
- Don't be pressured to make an immediate decision
- Register with the "Do Not Call Registry" 1-888-382-1222 or [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) (don't forget to add your cell phones too)
- When shopping, do not keep packages in the back seat of your car . . . put in your trunk (added)
- Be aware of your surroundings (added)
- Don't keep valuables in your car at night (GPS, garage door opener) if you park in the driveway- lock all your doors ( added)