

# REPORT IT IF A CRIME OCCURS

**Get help immediately  
by calling:**

**911 if you sustain injuries  
or are in fear of your life**

**your local Police Department  
(if crime occurs within city limits)**

**your local Sheriffs Office  
(if crime occurs outside city limits)**

**Try to remember as many details  
as possible about the assailant,  
such as:**

**clothing  
hair color  
eye color  
any identifying marks such as  
tattoos, scars or body piercing**

**Be careful that you do not destroy  
any possible evidence.**

# RESOURCES

**FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE,  
CONTACT**

Tulare County District Attorney's Consumer  
Fraud Hotline  
**(559) 730-2556**

Tulare County District Attorney's  
Victim/Witness Assistance Bureau  
**(559) 733-6754**

Department of Consumer Affairs  
**1-800-952-5210**

Better Business Bureau of the  
San Joaquin Valley  
**(559) 625-9020**

Bureau of Automotive Repair  
**1-800-952-5210**

Contractors State License Board  
**1-800-321-2752**

National Fraud Information Center  
**1-800-876-7060**

State Insurance Department  
Insurance Commissioner  
**1-800-927-4357**

# CRIME PREVENTION INFORMATION

For seniors  
and the disabled



**Office of the Tulare County District Attorney  
Victim Witness Assistance Bureau  
Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Program  
221 S. Mooney Blvd., Room 264  
Visalia, CA 93291  
**(559) 733-6754****

**Office of the Tulare County  
District Attorney**  
Phillip J. Cline, District Attorney  
221 S. Mooney Blvd. Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 733-6411



Many older and disabled persons face a variety of challenges that could make them vulnerable to would be assailants who assume the elderly or disabled are incapable of protecting themselves.

If you are elderly or disabled, or know someone who is, the following information may be helpful. If you take the time to read and remember these tips, **you may be able to prevent yourself, or someone you know, from becoming a victim of crime.**

***Be aware of situations and locations that could invite crime, such as dark alleys or unlit parking areas.***

***Plan ahead and consider your options in the event you are confronted.***

***Practice your responses often so you can recall them if needed.***

***Keep a whistle or other noise maker with you at all times, even if you are out during the day. Use it if someone you consider threatening approaches you. This will attract the attention of others and detract the would be assailant.***

***If you walk, walk with others and not alone.***

## HOME SECURITY

Consider having a peephole installed in all exterior doors.

Have proper locks on doors and windows and keep them locked when you go out and when you are home.

Never open the door to a stranger and always demand verification of identity and reason for the visit. Never tell a stranger calling by phone or at the door that you are elderly, disabled or alone.

Plan ahead and have an avenue of escape from each room in your home in case of an emergency or home invasion.

## TRAVEL SAFETY

There's safety in numbers, so whenever possible, travel with someone you know.

Leave an itinerary of your trip with family or friends, including ultimate destination and estimated time of return.

When waiting for a bus, train, plane or taxi, wait in a centralized location near other passengers.

When riding a bus, sit as near the driver as possible, particularly late at night.

Keep your handbag and packages on your lap instead of on the floor or the seat next to you.

Consider using travelers checks instead of carrying cash.

Be aware of your surroundings, particularly when exiting a train, plane, bus or taxi.

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, always carry your card showing communication symbols in case you need immediate assistance.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

Always ask for identification from all solicitors and call their agency or business for verification.

Don't commit yourself to purchases or charitable donations over the phone.

Ask the caller to mail information to you so you can make an informed decision. If you are not familiar with the company or organization, consult the State Department of Consumer Affairs or the Better Business Bureau.

Never give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the internet unless you've initiated the contact or know who you are dealing with. Before sharing any personal information, make sure you are dealing with a legitimate organization or business.

Always read and make sure you understand all contracts before you sign them. If your sight is impaired, have someone you trust read the entire document to you.

Beware of anyone who is offering products or services as "once in a lifetime" offers.

