



### OBITUARY SCAM

Con artists who target the elderly are bad enough, but imagine being a widow or widower and being targeted immediately after the death of your spouse. Many con artists are now using the obituaries to pin point their next target. A Cash On Delivery (C.O.D.) box arrives for a product "your recently deceased spouse supposedly ordered."

Example: An 85 year old woman just lost her husband after 50 years of marriage. The con artist sees the obituary and knows the decedent's name and his surviving relatives. The con artist then uses this information and starts to plan his plot. A messenger is sent to her home days later with a box containing shredded paper or old magazines. The box is addressed to her deceased husband. The messenger bullies the elderly lady into signing for the box. Once the box is signed for, he states that this is a C.O.D. and a cash payment is needed immediately. The elderly lady is frazzled at this point and agrees to pay the messenger. By the time the lady realizes that the box is empty, the messenger is out of site.

Warn seniors in your area about this scam. If the messenger does not have proper identification, advise them to tell the messenger, "I will not accept the product." Most often the messenger is an imposter perpetrating a con game on the victim.

Direct any inquiries relative to this correspondence to the Senior Services Section, at City-Net 5-5141 or Pax 0260.