



Tips for Senior Citizens – Part One

It's very difficult to get your money back if you've been cheated over the phone. Before you buy anything over the telephone, remember: Don't buy from an unfamiliar company. Legitimate businesses understand that you want more information about their company and are happy to comply.

- Always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity. If you get brochures about costly investments, ask someone whose financial advice you trust to review them. Beware -- not everything written down is true.
- Always check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, Illinois Attorney General's Office, the National Fraud Information Center, or other watchdog groups. Unfortunately, not all bad businesses can be identified through these organizations.
- Obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. Some con artists give out false names, telephone numbers, addresses, and business license numbers. Verify the accuracy of the information.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question. "What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"

Direct any inquiries relative to this correspondence to the Senior Services Section, at 312-745-5141 or Pax 0260.