

General Safety Tips

- Listen to & act on your intuition. It's better to be safe & risk a little embarrassment, than stay in an uncomfortable situation that is unsafe.
- Avoid being distracted from your surroundings when using cell phone. The call can wait until you are in a safe location.
- If you are in danger or being attacked & want to get help, yell "Call 911!" or give specific directions to onlookers; "You! Get the police!" or "Walk me to the store on the corner, I'm being followed."
- Have your keys ready when approaching your car or building.
- Do not advance money or confidential information to solicitors without authentication.
- Don't talk about your social life or vacation plans where strangers can overhear you.
- Do not post notice of specific plans on social networking websites.
- Make eye contact with those you encounter.
- Have lights in all entrances and turn them on at night.
- Have quality locks on all doors and windows and be sure to use them.
- Do not use your full name on your mailbox or voice mail. Request a non-published number.
- Do not leave a schedule of your activities away from home in any public domain.
- If you live alone, do not let strangers know.
- Check doors before opening them and if you are unsure who is on the other side, talk to them through the door. Do not open blindly.
- Never give personal information to solicitors. Tell them to mail you their offer for your consideration.



Community Services Unit

The Community Services Unit provides programs and presentations free of charge to any Civic, Church or community group in New Castle County. Most presentations are 30 minutes to 1 hour in length. The Officers work in a partnership with the community to resolve a variety of issues. Officers utilize educational awareness as well as developing crime reduction and problem solving strategies.

The following programs are offered:

*Block Watch
Bicycle Safety
Building Tours
Burglary Prevention
Home Security
Child Safety
Community/Civic Meetings
Drug & Alcohol Awareness
Explorers Post (905)
Halloween Safety
Heroin Alert
Identity Theft
Officer Friendly
Police Athletic League
Personal Safety
Senior Roll Call
Workplace Safety
Youth & the Law*

For more information contact us at
302-395-8050 or on the web at
www.nccpd.com

New Castle County Police
Community Services Unit
3601 N. DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

New Castle County Police Department

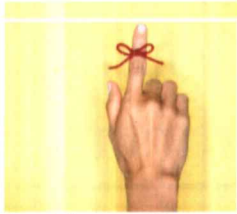
Scam Alert



New Castle County Police Department

WWW.NCCPD.COM

Types of Fraud



Top 5 Things to Remember

1. **If an offer sounds too good to be true then it probably isn't true.**
2. **When it comes to a now or never opportunity choose never**
3. **Be wary of salesmen needing personal information such as bank account numbers, social security numbers, passwords and date of birth.**
4. **Before signing any contract verify offers by contacting the Better Business Bureau or Consumer Advocate groups.**
5. **Never pay in advance for any services.**

Although there are many types of fraud, the following information and tips are on the most common.

Telemarketing >>>

Consumers may be contacted via telephone by salespeople offering free prizes, unbelievable offers, charitable donations and other sale pitches too good to be true using high pressure sales tactics.

TIPS:

- ✓ Ask for the offers to be sent via mail outlining the offer.
- ✓ Ask for contact information including salespersons name, company name, address, email and phone number for verification.
- ✓ Check with the Better Business Bureau, State Consumer Advocate Group.
- ✓ If you believe you may be involved in a scam contact your local law enforcement agency.

Home Improvements>>>

Residents are contacted at their residence by repairmen who just happen to be in the neighborhood. The sales pitches are that they have left over materials, only good today offers, easy financing or cash only deals. Again high pressure sales tactics are used.

TIPS:

- ✓ Ask for a detailed written bid/contract.
- ✓ Ask for specific contact information for verification & references.
- ✓ Take your time to research the company.
- ✓ Gather licensing number & bonding/insurance verification.
- ✓ Check with the Better Business Bureau.

Medicare/Medical Equipment>>>

Consumers are solicited at home, by telephone and/or email trying to sell discounted Medicare cards or medical supplies or equipment. Consumers are offered free products and advised that their insurance will be charged directly not costing the consumer anything.

TIPS:

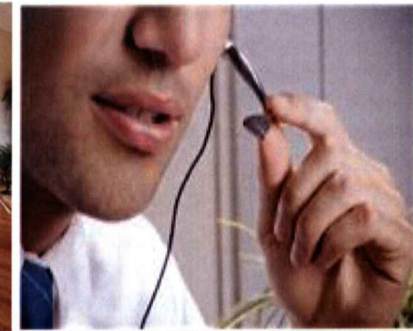
- ✓ Ask for detailed written contract.
- ✓ Ask for specific contact information for verification and references check.
- ✓ Take your time to research the company.

Grandparent Scheme >>>

Someone calls or emails on behalf of a grandchild/child. The distressed grandparent asks the grandparent to wire money to get them out of trouble. The grandchild also asks that the grandparent not tell anyone.

TIPS:

- ✓ Don't disclose any personal information.
- ✓ Verify that it is your grandchild.
- ✓ Imposters get your information via social media. Limit the amount and type of information you post online.
- ✓ If you suspect a scam contact the police.



For more information on frauds & scams:

State of Delaware Department of Justice Consumer Protection

<http://www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/consumers/index.shtml>

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/>

Delaware Better Business Bureau

<http://delaware.bbb.org/>

(302) 221-5255

Internet Crime Complaint Center IC3

<http://www.ic3.gov>