

Fraud Protection for Elders Living or Staying Alone

- Remove his/her name from telemarketers lists and junk mailings.
- Set up a P.O. Box for mail delivery and screen mail.
- Arrange with the bank to allow access only to predetermined amounts of money. Ask the bank to call you if a request for a large withdrawal is made.
- Limit credit card access.
- Look for unusual activity and bank accounts, bounced checks, “maxed out” credit.
- Look for checks or documents with signatures that appear forged.
- Screen phone calls.
- Be sure the person’s social security number does not appear on checks.
- Check the person’s credit report yearly.
- Look for unpaid or overpaid bills.
- Be aware of someone isolates the person or talks excessively about finances.
- Notice if a new acquaintance expresses inordinate affection and loyalty.
- Look for changes in the will, deed or Power of Attorney if the person is not able to comprehend such changes.

Gwyther LP & Ballard EL (2002). Working with Family Caregivers of People with Memory Disorders: A North Carolina Information & Assistance Toolkit. Durham, NC: Duke Family Support Program.