

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF



**SAFETY FOR
SENIORS**

FINANCIAL SAFETY AND SECURITY:

When dealing with financial matters such as banking, taxes, investments, social security, and retirement, only use secure networks, websites, applications, and verified corporate phone numbers.

- ▶ Do not reply to received emails or calls asking you to verify login, password or other account information.
- ▶ Do not call the phone numbers provided within emails asking you to call and verify account or payment info.
- ▶ Do not send money cards to any "government agency" asking for money cards as payment.
- ▶ Beware of any phone call or email saying you need to pay to avoid being arrested for warrants, fines or fees.
- ▶ Beware of any calls asking for money for family members due to arrest, warrants, property damage or kidnapping.
- ▶ Beware of any emails or calls asking for your information to claim prize money for a game/lottery that you did not play.
- ▶ Do not deposit checks in your account if you do not know where they came from or what they are for.
- ▶ Shred all financial paperwork and credit card applications before throwing them away.

AT HOME SAFETY:

Locks, lighting, and landscaping are the hallmarks of home security. Limit access to your house, secure your valuables, and keep emergency communication on you in case of a break-in or medical emergency.

- ▶ Keep doors locked — Entry, Sliding, and Garage.
- ▶ Keep windows locked or blocked.
- ▶ Keep landscaping trimmed short around doors and windows.
- ▶ Leave exterior lights on at night to discourage loitering and prowling.
- ▶ Keep your cell phone charged and with you in case of an emergency.
- ▶ Use your house alarm or a door chime to alert you to open windows and doors.
- ▶ Keep smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms working.
- ▶ Secure your valuables — Hide/Mounted Lockbox/ Safe or Safe Deposit Box.
- ▶ Secure and keep track of medications — Sometimes they can be a bigger target than your valuables.
- ▶ Use only reputable, bonded, and insured contractors with personal references.
- ▶ Put information for emergency contacts on the refrigerator.

SAFETY OUT IN PUBLIC:

To be safe out in public, increase your awareness, limit the time you are by yourself, and secure your valuables.

- ▶ Lock your car doors as soon as you are inside your car.
- ▶ Park in well-lit areas after dark, as close to an entrance as possible.
- ▶ Walk with other people to/from the parking lot when possible.
- ▶ Do not leave valuables in your car. If you have to, hide them out of view.
- ▶ Always keep your purse closed up and near you.
- ▶ Do not leave your purse unattended in a cart.
- ▶ Allow a store employee to walk back out to your car with you and help with bags.
- ▶ Use cards and carry less cash. **DO NOT** display large amounts of cash out in public, if possible.
- ▶ Leave a note or tell someone where you are going and update them on your schedule.