

From Atty. General Karl Racine: Help Combat Senior Abuse and Exploitation!

Attorney General Karl A. Racine has issued a consumer alert with tips and resources to help District seniors and other vulnerable residents protect themselves from abuse and exploitation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the District's nearly 83,000 seniors are at higher risk of exploitation or abuse because they must rely on others for assistance. District seniors, their caretakers, and community advocates should report any suspected wrongdoing, abuse, or exploitation to Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Adult Protective Services (APS), and Office of the Attorney General (OAG)'s Elder Justice Section at 202-727-3807 or elderjustice@dc.gov.

Tips for Seniors

We urge all District residents to be on the lookout for fraud, scams, or other forms of abuse targeting District seniors and other vulnerable people. **Take the following steps to protect yourself against exploitation:**

- Talk to your bank about identifying a trusted emergency contact the bank should reach out to if you are unable to communicate yourself.
- Always seek the advice of a trusted family member or friend before giving out personal or financial information online, over the phone, or in person.
- Ask a trusted family member or friend for help with determining whether you qualify for emergency benefits, and to sign up.
- Watch out for benefits fraud—do not trust anyone claiming to be an aid worker offering to help you enroll in emergency benefits.
- Call a family member, friend, or known neighbor if you need help with errands—be vigilant and cautious if a stranger knocks on your door offering to pick up groceries, prescriptions, or other goods.
- Check the website for the [Department of Aging and Community Living](#), along with their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, to see whether they are providing any services you need, including food distribution.
- Get [powers of attorney](#) in place right now, if possible.
- [Sign up](#) for OAG email alerts, and check <https://oag.dc.gov/coronavirus> for updates.

If you are a District senior experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation, or you are aware of a senior being victimized, do not hesitate to get help by:

- Filing a report with Adult Protective Services by calling their 24-hour hotline at 202-541-3950
- Contacting Office of the Attorney General's Elder Justice Section at 202-727-3807 or elderjustice@dc.gov