SCAMS
Targeting OLDER ADULTS!

1. CAREGIVER FRAUD
   Home health aides, family, and housekeepers sometimes steal from older adults. If you suspect fraud, call Howard County’s Police Senior Liaison at 410-313-6089.

2. CHARITY FRAUD
   Solicitations for charities are often made by dishonest firms. Their names may be similar to those of reputable charities. Contact the Secretary of State to verify a charity at 410-974-5521.

3. DRUG PLANS
   Don’t be fooled by phony direct mail, television, radio or newspaper offers about Medicare drug plans. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227) for 24-hour help.

4. FALSE EMERGENCIES
   Someone phones or emails claiming to be a friend or relative and they’ve been arrested, are in the hospital, or in need of cash. Do NOT send money, cryptocurrency or gift cards to strangers.

5. FUNERAL FRAUD
   Funeral providers may demand money from survivors, even if you prepaid. Keep full records and ask how prepayment will be protected if the company closes.

6. HOME IMPROVEMENT
   Door-to-door criminals can pressure you into unnecessary home repairs. They may steal deposits, perform shoddy work, or fail to finish the job.

7. INVESTMENT FRAUD
   Criminals try to convince you to buy phony investments with promises of high returns. Call FINRA if you are concerned about an investor scam at 301-590-6500.

8. LOTTERY/SWEEPSTAKES
   You receive bogus calls, letters and e-mails that ask you to pay for processing, taxes, or delivery, or provide bank account information.

9. PHISHING SCHEMES
   You receive phony e-mails or texts which appear to be from your bank, a business, or the government and asks you to “confirm” your account, claim fraud, or demand money.

10. SOCIAL SECURITY
    The Social Security Administration will NEVER call you out of the blue to “verify” your information or close your account. If you have questions about your Social Security account, call 800-772-1213.

Find additional resources on the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection website. You can call us at 410-313-6420, or use your smartphone to access via the QR code.

www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer-protection

For more information, or to request this information in an alternate format, contact us at 410-313-6420 (voice/relay) or consumer@howardcountymd.gov.