York County
Elder Abuse Task Force

Fraud Alert Bulletin

October, 2022

This is a Fraud Alert issued by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force.

Periodically, members of the Task Force, along with the York County District Attorney's office who prosecute these devastating financial crimes will offer warnings about the latest financial scams targeting seniors here in York County.

Educating seniors about financial fraud is a top priority of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force. With that in mind, we want every senior in York County to remember the **3 Rs:**
Recognize a potential scam;
Refuse to make any hasty decisions; and
Report suspicious activity to police.
Stay safe and feel free to contact Area Agency on Aging at 717-771-9610 or the District Attorney Dave Sunday at the District Attorney's Office (717-771-9600) with any questions.

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FRAUD ALERT – *Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products*

In a society bombarded with images of the young and beautiful, it's not surprising that some older people feel the need to conceal their age in order to participate more fully in social circles. After all, 60 is the new 40, right?

It is in this spirit that many older Americans seek out new treatments and medications to maintain a youthful appearance, putting them at risk of scammers. Whether it's fake Botox that netted its distributors $1.5 million in barely a year, or completely bogus homeopathic remedies that do absolutely nothing, there is money in the anti-aging business.

Government and industry studies and testing have discovered dangerous ingredients within counterfeit "anti-aging" products. Fraudulent cosmetics may contain arsenic, beryllium, and cadmium—all known carcinogens—along with high levels of aluminum and dangerous levels of bacteria from sources such as urine. Some of these products have caused conditions like acne, psoriasis, rashes, and eye infections. A bad batch can have health consequences far beyond wrinkles or drooping neck muscles.

Tips for Avoiding Fraudulent "Anti-Aging" Products:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Watch out for "secret formulas" or "breakthroughs."
- Don't be afraid to ask questions about the product—find out exactly what it should and should not do for you.
- Be wary of products that claim to cure a wide variety of illnesses—particularly serious ones—that don't appear to be related.
- Be aware of testimonials and/or celebrity endorsements which are often misleading.
- Always consult your doctor before taking any dietary or nutritional supplement.