

Hiring a private pay worker may be a great solution to assist with maintaining one's independence. Unfortunately the majority of crimes committed against older adults are perpetrated by someone the victim has a relationship with, such as a family member or a paid or unpaid caregiver. Below are some warning signs that might prevent you from becoming a victim.

- Does your caregiver spend a lot of time on the phone while "working"? Not only is this distracting and disrespectful, it may mean that an outsider is having your caregiver give them information on what is in your home.
- If you send a caregiver to the store, make sure you get the correct change back and always request a receipt. If you see charges for items you did not receive or request, address it with the caregiver. Scammers often start out with low priced items just to see if you are paying attention.
- If a caregiver is sharing tales of woe, they may be trying to exploit you. Exploiters will tell you heartbreaking stories in hopes that you will give them money to help their "relative who desperately requires costly medical attention".
- Caregivers that are consistently missing work, especially on Mondays, might indicate a problem with substance abuse. Alcoholism, drug abuse, and gambling may cause caregivers to steal from you to support their addictions.
- A caregiver should never have family members or friends stopping by to see them while they are working. Not only is this disrespectful but it could mean they are checking out your house for things to steal.

The MCSSC encourages everyone to run a background check before hiring a private pay worker. While most caregivers will be trustworthy, a background check is just one more step to ensure your safety.

SAFETY PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT

Marquette Senior Center
300 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-0456

Negaunee Senior Center
410 Jackson Street
Negaunee, MI 49866
906-475-6266

Ishpeming Senior Center
320 S. Pine Street
Ishpeming, MI 49849
906-485-5527

**Forsyth Township
Senior Center**
165 N. Maple Street
Gwinn, MI 49841
906-346-9862

**Superior Alliance for
Independent Living
(SAIL)**
1200 Wright Street
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-5744

DON'T BE A VICTIM...

PROTECT YOURSELF AT HOME



DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- SHOPPING
- HOUSEKEEPING
- YARD WORK
- BATHING & DRESSING

MISSION STATEMENT

Marquette County Senior Safety Coalition is a community based coalition of senior service providers and law enforcement working together to address safety issues and develop solutions to enhance the safety and security of seniors throughout the community.



If you feel that you have been a victim of elder fraud, please contact your local police department. If you would like assistance with this process, contact your local senior center or the Superior Alliance for Independent Living office. By reporting these crimes, you help prevent others from becoming a victim to the same scam.



Senior Safety Information Packet

Seniors often find themselves in a position of needing a little assistance to maintain their independence. Increased crime, abuse and exploitation of senior citizens has made it *important* to protect yourself.

The Marquette County Senior Safety Coalition has created a free information packet to help you make safe choices when hiring a private pay worker.

The Packet Includes:

- A Background Check Form
- Instructions for Completing the Background Check Form
- Listing of county-wide Law Enforcement Agencies and the Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Sample Interview Questions
- AARP Information Sheet to help in selecting a private pay worker.

MARQUETTE COUNTY SENIOR SAFETY COALITION (MCSSC)

Information Safety Packets can be obtained at the following links:

www.mqtcty.org

www.co.marquette.mi.us

Matt Wiese Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney



"My office is a part of the MCSSC because I see first hand how devastating it is for seniors when they have been targeted by criminals.

I believe every senior citizen in Marquette County has the right to feel safe and secure in their homes. They should not have to worry that they might be taken advantage of or become the victim of a crime."