



**Always Remember...
If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!!**

You have been told this since you were young....because it's true.

There is no such thing as a "free lunch"...

Everything has a price – even those “free lunch” seminars. Be careful!

Don't pay in advance...

The one who has the money has the upper hand. If you are not satisfied with the job or the product, you have the upper hand if you haven't made the final payment. Make them get it right!

Be wary of any unsolicited contact...

Never give out any personal information to anyone who contacts you by e-mail, phone, etc. unless you asked them to contact you. It's your money – protect it!

There are three Seniors vs. Crime locations in Lake County to serve you

Clermont Office:

Lake County Sheriff South District Office
15855 S.R. 50
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 742-3600
Office hours: Wednesday, 10am-2pm
svcclermont@yahoo.com

Tavares Office:

Lake County Sheriff Headquarters
360 Ruby St., 3rd Floor
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 343-9529
Office hours: Wednesday 10am-2pm
Tavareseniorsvs.crime@yahoo.com

Leesburg Office:

Lake County Sheriff's Substation
Pennbrooke Fairways
501 S.R. 44
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 323-8273
Office hours: Tuesday 10am-2pm
Lakecountysvc@yahoo.com

Seniors vs Crime

A Special Project of the Florida Attorney General

Seniors vs. Crime is now working in conjunction with the Lake County Sheriff's Office in Lake County to better serve you.

Have you ever been a victim of a scam, fraud, unethical or unfair business practice?

If you feel someone has taken advantage of you, cheated you out of money or not delivered on what they promised, then there is something you can do.

Call one of the Seniors vs. Crime offices located in Lake County and let us help you.

Seniors vs. Crime Our History:

In 1989, some of Florida's most effective crime fighters were unleashed through the creation of the Attorney General's Seniors vs. Crime Project. A Florida legislative task force found that seniors were being targeted for scams, subjected to high-pressure sales tactics and being deceived by false advertising at an alarming rate.

As a result, the Attorney General's Office sponsored the Seniors vs. Crime Project to help seniors avoid crime, scams and hoaxes and help recover from being a victim. Since its' inception over 20 years ago, the Seniors vs. Crime Project has recovered and return to our clients nearly **\$20 Million** from our more than 50 offices throughout the state of Florida.

The primary goal of the project is to reduce victimization of senior citizens. Seniors are often targeted for specific crimes based on their age but you do not have to be a senior to use our services. Seniors vs. Crime is available to all Floridians and **there is never a charge for our services.**

Please bear in mind that not all cases are resolved to a senior's satisfaction. There may be circumstances that prevent us from coming to an amenable solution, but we do strive for compromise whenever possible.

Lawn Mowing/Weeding Services:

Payment for services should be made after the lawn is mowed or weeding done. NEVER pay up front for a month's service or enter into a yearly contract is required up front. You don't pay your physician in advance – why pay a lawn service/weeder in advance?

Landscaping Services:

An advance down payment of up to fifty percent (50%) is often asked for when signing a landscape contract. Down payments should never exceed ten percent (10%). The job may call for progress payments as the job progresses. Always reserve about 25% as a final payment once the job is completed to your satisfaction. Your final payment is considered your stamp of approval.

Driveway Painting/Paving:

Once again, you may be asked for a large down payment, often fifty percent (50%) or more. The installing company should have the pavers on hand and a large down payment should not be necessary. Always get more than one bid and check references whenever possible.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

Even if you have recently been taken advantage of, there are steps you can take in the future:

- **Always obtain several written estimates on any work you are going to have done.**
- **Check with your local BBB, the Florida Division of Consumer Services, Seniors vs. Crime, or other governmental agencies to ensure your contractor is reliable before having work done.**
- **Have a written contract for all work to be performed. Read it before signing.**
- **DO NOT PAY IN ADVANCE! Avoid making prepayments or large down payments.**
- **Make sure your chosen contractor is licensed and has insurance.**
- **Pay by check or credit card if possible. Get a receipt if paying by cash.**
- **Always make checks out to a business name – never to an individual's name.**
- **NEVER give out bank account information or social security numbers or any personal information, especially over the phone, or on the internet unless YOU INITIATED THE CONTACT!**