



# SCAM ALERT

## Scam: Cell Phone Theft Target: All Seniors

Identity theft can happen to anyone. If your cell phone is stolen, you must act quickly! Although having your wallet stolen can be devastating and dangerous, having your cell phone stolen can be much worse. Your cell phone contains your contacts, photos and other personal data. For people who have online shopping sites saved on their cell phones or their credit card information stored on their cell phone's wallet feature, having your cell phone stolen can be very serious.

### Phone Thieves May Access Your Personal Information

The Federal Trade Commission offers suggestions to protect you and your information from cell phone thieves. You can visit or call your cell phone provider if you need directions for any of these safety recommendations:

- 🔔 **Lock your cell phone!** A six-digit password or the fingerprint feature is recommended. Set your cell phone to automatically lock when not in use.
- 🔔 **Update and back up your cell phone regularly!** Set up the automatic update feature and back up your cell phone on your computer often to prevent losing photos and other information.
- 🔔 **Get help finding your cell phone!** Install and turn on the app "Find my iPhone" or "Find my Device" features on your cell phone. The app could help you locate your device if you lose it and if it is stolen, these apps let you remotely issue a command to erase your device. Even if the thief turns the phone off!
- 🔔 **Alert your cell phone provider if your phone is missing!** Contact them immediately! They can permanently or temporarily disable the SIM card to stop the thief from making calls or using the internet. Keep a copy of your cell phone's IMEI number to help identify your device.
- 🔔 **Turn on the two-factor authentication!** This requires a password and a second way to identify yourself and makes it harder for thieves to access your information.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact  
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at  
877-565-2020 or your local police department.**