

12 SIGNS THAT AN ELDERLY PERSON MAY HAVE BEEN TARGETED BY TELEPHONE CON ARTISTS

(Source: Consumer Protection Division, NC Dept. of Justice)

1. Frequent visits to the person's home by overnight courier services.
2. Numerous cheap prizes in the home (e.g., plastic cameras, gold-plated jewelry, vacation certificates, small television sets).
3. Phone bills showing a sudden, unexplained increase in long distance calls to Canada, Jamaica.
4. Several colorful mailings in the home re international lotteries, puzzle-solving contests.
5. Questions about Canada, foreign taxes, wire transfers, "Abarristers," customs duties, registering bonds overseas.
6. Checking and credit card accounts showing sudden increases in transactions with wire services, numerous unexplained debits or charges from out of state, purchases of money orders or counter checks in large amounts.
7. Wire transfer receipts showing large sums going to metro Atlanta, upstate New York, Florida, California, Canada, the Middle East or the Caribbean.
8. Unexpected or unexplained borrowing patterns; an unexpected inability to pay bills or meet living expenses.
9. A sudden reluctance to be away from home or to have visitors in the home.
10. Visits to wire transfer outlets by a person who normally does not use such services.
11. Unexpected secretiveness or defensiveness regarding any of the above.
12. Social withdrawal, depression, anxiety that cannot be attributed to other events or conditions, together with any of the above.