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September 22, 2019 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Livingston County seniors are being targeted. Livingston County Catholic Charities seeks to raise awareness of the Social Security scam that has raised its ugly head here in Howell. Seniors and vulnerable adults are receiving calls from persons stating they are from Social Security, giving badge numbers, and using a phone number that comes up on caller ID as Social Security Administration. The caller is very difficult to understand. The caller tells the senior that their social security is going to be frozen and a warrant will be issued for their arrest if they do not load all of the cash they have onto gift cards to be forwarded to an address that will be given to them after they give gift card confirmation numbers to the caller. **This is a scam! Social Security will NOT call you unless been prior arrangements have been made.** Please do not fall victim to another scam that is engineered to separate a senior from their money. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments or you or a loved one has been victimized by this or any of the other scams, please contact your local police department or Beth Newman, Older Adult Specialist at Livingston Catholic Charities at 517/545-5944 ext. 122 or [Beth@livingstoncatholiccharities.org](mailto:Beth@livingstoncatholiccharities.org).

Some warning signs to watch for noting that a senior is being exploited and victimized:

* + Very nervous, may be crying, shaking.
  + Withdrawing a large sum of money or taking out all of the money from accounts.
  + Purchasing large amounts of gift cards.
  + Saying they were told not to tell anybody what they are doing if you question the senior.
  + Asking for help.

Do you know what to do? Here are a few things you can do or say to engage and help the senior:

* + Ask the senior if everything is alright…they seem shaken today.
  + “That is quite a large sum of money you are withdrawing! Are you going on a trip?”
  + “I will need to get my manager’s approval before I can complete this transaction.”
  + “That is quite a few gift cards you have there. Can I help you with purchasing those Cards?”
  + “Who told you not to tell? Do you have someone on the phone you would like me to talk to?
  + “Are you being threatened? Are you scared? You keep them on the phone and I will call 911!”
  + “I will do my best to find someone to help you. Let me call someone to help you with this.”
  + “Let me take you to our customer service department, where they have been trained to know where and what to do in a case like this.”