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THE VOICE OF CENTRAL AND NORTH BUCKS COUNTY

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## Help is near for crime against older adults

With Older Americans Month behind us, it's helpful to remind our community that crime against older persons is not only a growing concern in the nation, but also here in Bucks County. Elder abuse is any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable older adult.

Although persons age 65 and older experience crime victimization at a lower rate than younger people, the crime often has a greater impact on the physical, emotional and social well being of the older crime victim. Older adults are more likely to be victims of property crimes, personal larceny such as purse snatchings, and financial crimes such as frauds and scams.

Concern about crimes against the elderly and low reporting led the Bucks County District Attorney's Office back in 2005 to develop the Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force.

The mission of the task force is to review, investigate, and prosecute crimes committed against older adults in Bucks County; to prevent crimes through professional and community education; and to increase awareness of available resources for services.

The task force agencies include:

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) 215-343-6543

A Woman's Place 800-220-8116

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging 215- 348-0510

Bucks County Consumer Protection 215-348-6060

Bucks County Coroner 215-348-3852

Bucks County District Attorney's Office 215-348-6344

Bucks County Register of Wills 215-348-6265.

Please join us in fighting crime against older adults. Silence isn't golden.

*Kathy Bennett  
Associate Director, NOVA  
Bucks County Crimes Against Older  
Adults Task Force*