



Putnam County Justice Center
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10/20/2014

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Fraud Prevention for Seniors to be held at Baxter Seniors Center

Major Terry Hembree, head of the Criminal Investigations Division of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, will be speaking on "Fraud Prevention for Seniors" at the Baxter Seniors Center located at 200 Main Street, Baxter, TN, at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 31st.

According to the National Council on Aging, Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered 'the crime of the 21st century.' Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their bank accounts.

Financial scams also often go unreported or can be difficult to prosecute, so they're considered a "low-risk" crime. However, they're devastating to many older adults and can leave them in a very vulnerable position with little time to recoup their losses.

It's not just wealthy seniors who are targeted. Low-income older adults are also at risk of financial abuse. And it's not always strangers who perpetrate these crimes. Over 90% of all reported elder abuse is committed by an older person's own family members, most often their adult children, followed by grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and others.

"As more people retire to the Upper Cumberland, we are seeing a rise in this type of crime in our communities," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "We need to do more to protect our senior citizens. While we are stepping up our efforts to target these criminals, the best protection is prevention. We consider it our duty to educate senior citizens on the latest scams and schemes, so they can hopefully prevent it from happening to them."

For more information, please contact the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at (931) 528-8484 or the Baxter Seniors Center at (931) 858-5657.

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