

NATI NEWSWIRE

SENIOR SAFETY ISSUES

Website of the Month

National Legal Resource Center – A Support System for the Aging and Law Networks

The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) Office of Elder Rights recently announced the six collaborators of the new iteration of the National Legal Resource Center (NLRC).

NLRC Services

The NLRC will provide the following services through its collaborators:

Case Consultation [The National Senior Citizens Law Center \(NSCLC\)](#) will provide case consultation for professionals and advocates to assist them in the resolving complex legal issues impacting older individuals.

Training [The National Consumer Law Center \(NCLC\)](#) will provide training for the aging and legal services networks on a wide range of legal and elder rights issues. Topics for case consultation and training may include long-term care, healthcare, housing, public benefits, Older Americans Act services, guardianship/conservatorship, elder abuse, financial exploitation, Medicare/Medicaid, home foreclosures, predatory lending, and consumer fraud.

Technical Assistance/Legal and Aging Systems Development [The Center for Social Gerontology \(TCSG\)](#) will provide technical assistance in the development, expansion, and integration of service delivery systems interfacing seamlessly between the legal and aging services network. [Elder Law of Michigan, Center for Elder Rights Advocates \(ELM-CERA\)](#) will provide technical assistance to a network of legal helpline professionals offering accessible and cost effective legal aid to elders, as well as to states on how to best integrate these low-cost mechanisms into the larger legal and aging services network.

Information and Resource Development and Dissemination [The American Bar Association, Fund for Justice and Education \(ABA-FJE\)](#) will provide quality information and resources such as research on “cutting edge” issues of elder law; newsletters; fact sheets; issue briefs; self-help manuals; educational and outreach materials; and information on promising and innovative practices identified through demonstration projects, etc.

By providing these services, the NLRC will support the aging and legal services networks in helping older persons live as independently as possible, exercise choice,

and maintain financial security. These goals will also dovetail with two major AoA initiatives. Practitioners working with seniors in Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers (ADRCs) will be better positioned to spot legal issues as they emerge and refer cases or intervene earlier. The NLRC will also work to amplify the impact of the Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance Systems demonstration projects, which began in 2006 and seek to establish well-integrated legal systems. In addition, both the NCEA and the NLRC will provide resources to support each other’s parallel efforts to enhance the right and protections of Older Americans.

Mr. Valverde emphasized that the NLRC is not only a resource for legal professionals; it is an important resource for aging services professionals and advocates to utilize as they encounter legal issues affecting their clients.

Currently under construction, the home page will allow users to select case consultation, training, or technical assistance options, and to obtain information on the relevant NLRC affiliate(s), services offered, and approximate turnaround time for obtaining services. The website will also expedite the process for requesting assistance from NLRC collaborators. [Legal Services National Technology Assistance Project \(LSNTAP\)](#), an organization that has worked extensively with state legal providers, will assist in the development of content for the site. The site is intended to launch by October 2009.

Mr. Valverde concludes:

“The end result, we hope, is to maximize resources and expand access to services for those in most social and economic need. For example, the [state] Legal Services Developer will have many options for identifying resources for assisting in training and capacity development, etc. We believe that the previous system achieved a very high level of accomplishment within the context of its model. But it reached its highest state of excellence or its evolutionary cusp. We believe that the new Center will be taking the system to the next level, where the whole will become greater than the sum of its parts.”

Congratulations to the new NLRC awardees!

(For questions on the NLRC, please contact Mr. Valverde at: Omar.Valverde@AoA.hhs.gov)

Suspected Serial Rapist Charged In 4 Attacks

JASPER TISDALE HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD LINKING HIM TO SEXUAL ASSAULTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

MIAMI (CBS4) — A Miami judge denied bond on Thursday for an accused serial rapist who has been linked by police to at least four attacks in less than three months and two of those attacks were on elderly women.

Miami-Dade police said that 19-year-old Jasper Lee Tisdale was arrested November 3rd as a result of an investigation stemming from three separate incidents of sexual assault and one attempted assault.

Police said Tisdale's attacks began on September 1st, 2008, when he broke into a home and confronted a 67-year old woman in her bed. He allegedly put a knife to her throat and demanded money. She screamed and he ran away on foot.

On October 12, police say he struck again, when he grabbed a 91-year old woman walking to her apartment complex. He covered her face, pushed her to the ground, slapped her and sexually assaulted her.

The next attack came a little more than a week later. On October 21st, Tisdale is accused of attacking a 73-year old woman outside of her apartment complex. He also slapped her and attempted to sexually assault her but he was scared away by a witness exiting his apartment.

The final attack took place on November 1st. The 52-year old woman was sleeping in her home. Police say Tisdale broke in through her front door armed with a knife and sexually assaulted her at knifepoint.

After Tisdale was picked up near his home, in the area of NE 8th Avenue and 145 Street, he was interviewed at the Sexual Crimes Bureau office by detectives where he admitted to committing the robberies and sexual assaults, said police.

Tisdale has been charged with Armed Sexual Battery, Attempted Sexual Battery, Sexual Battery, Armed Home Invasion Robbery, Armed Occupied Burglary, and Battery on the Elderly.

Police say Tisdale has a long criminal history which includes several previous arrests in South Carolina for sexual battery, carrying concealed weapons, and multiple assault and battery charges.

The Miami-Dade Sexual Crimes Bureau is continuing to investigate whether Tisdale may be responsible for any other similar incidents.

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MAN ARRESTED FOR BILKING ELDERLY WOMAN OUT OF LIFE SAVINGS

[MARIANNE WELLENDORF](#)

Warren Avis Poole, 51, of Vero Beach was arrested today. He faces 7 charges, including contracting without a license during a state of emergency, organized scheme to defraud and uttering a forged instrument.

Detectives began investigating Poole in May after a 68-yr. old woman in Fort Pierce reported that Poole used money she gave him for personal gain, and not for its intended purpose.

The woman gave Poole \$90,000 to pay for the costs associated with constructing a new building for her beauty salon. She also invested \$75,000 as a business loan to purchase six dump trucks to be used in recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana. There was an additional \$124,000 that she paid to Poole associated with the purchase of the trucks. She also paid Poole \$48,475 for various work and services that he never completed.

Poole first came to the woman after the 2004 hurricanes. Poole, an unlicensed contractor, agreed to repair her roof. Police are concerned that there may be more victims out there. If you were a victim of Warren Avis Poole, police want to hear from you. Contact Fort Pierce Detective Sally Hurley, at 772-461-3820.

Bill tries to protect senior citizens from fraud

By STEPHEN SMITH For The Press

TRENTON - Lakewood resident George Longo, 78, said he was recovering from a heart attack when a friend introduced him to her accountant of 15 years, Janet Neely, who was supposed to handle his finances while he recovered. Longo said Neely pressured him into giving her power of attorney and said she would invest his money in low-risk bonds.

But the accountant, who was arrested in February in Middlesex County on charges related to Longo's case and other alleged thefts, maxed out a credit card in his name, took \$350,000 from a savings account that Longo needed to continue living in the Leisure Park nursing home and wrote up a will for Longo, naming herself as the sole beneficiary and executor.

State Sen. Jeff Van Drew, D-Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic, said he believes he has a solution to protect others like Longo. He introduced a bill in October that provides for as much as \$10,000 in penalties for anyone who knowingly deceives a senior citizen and causes any monetary damage. The penalty rises to \$30,000 if the deception is part of a scheme or plan.

The bill comes too late for Longo, but Van Drew hopes that it will help others in the future. U.S. District Court Judge William Martini's office said Neely and her husband recently pleaded guilty to federal charges of mail fraud, conspiracy to commit mail fraud and tax evasion. They face a maximum of 35 years each in prison. The Assembly passed the companion bill A3354 on Oct. 27 by a vote of 78-0 and one abstention.

More Senior Safety related articles are located at www.nationaltriad.org; e-news section

Man admits bilking senior citizens

*Kris Wernowsky
kwernowsky@pnj.com*

A man accused of bilking dozens of local senior citizens out of more than \$2 million through a bogus investment scheme pleaded guilty to a charge that could land him in state prison for the next three decades.

Stephen J. Brace, 61, pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated white-collar crime and faces four to 30 years in state prison.

Circuit Judge Frank Bell will sentence Brace at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Brace's trial was expected to begin Monday, and the plea during a routine hearing Thursday came as somewhat of a shock to Assistant State Attorney Russ Edgar who prosecuted the case.

"He said he would like to share responsibility for what he has done," Edgar said. Investigators said that between Oct. 1, 2003 and June 30, 2007, Brace bilked more than 25 older victims out of more than \$2 million as the head of a business called Senior Tax Advisory Group, which he operated out of an office on Garden Street in downtown Pensacola.

Brace was arrested in McKinney, Texas, in mid-December on an Escambia County warrant. Brace met his victims at his office where he offered tax preparation services at discount rates. He would then introduce clients to investment deals in a San Marcos, Texas, company called Platinum Financial Advisors, court records show.

Brace, who has remained in the Escambia County Jail since his arrest, insisted at several court hearings that he too was a victim in the scam and a small player in a much bigger organization.

The prosecution did not offer Brace a plea bargain, but Edgar said Brace offered to help the State Attorney's Office in its investigation of people higher up in what is suspected as being a prime bank scheme.

"They employ regional sales people to bring customers in and fleece them and send it up the stream and take a cut," Edgar said. "(Victims) are going to lose their houses over this."

Brace's plea was welcome news to Memory Presley, who invested \$165,000 the investment scheme in July 2005 and received \$4,000 in return. Brace pitched his deal to Presley and her husband J.D., who suffered from Alzheimer's Disease.

"I was summoned as a plaintiff in the case," she said. "I don't know what's going to happen now. I don't even want to see his face."

Brace was sympathetic to her husband's illness, Presley said, and even claimed that his own mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

POLICE: COUPLE WORKING CON ON ELDERLY RESIDENTS

Daily Reflector (NORTH CAROLINA)

A man and woman identifying themselves as city and GUC employees have stolen property from at least two elderly people, the Greenville Police Department reported.

Police issued a warning late Wednesday that residents should be wary of a man and woman approaching homes and asking to check for leaks or advise about maintenance work. The warning said two residents have been robbed recently as part of the scam.

In the first reported incident, a woman said the couple told a woman they worked for Greenville Utilities and needed to check for a leak, a news release said. While inside, the female distracted the victim while the male suspect stole several items from the house.

In a second incident, the suspects told a woman they worked for the City of Greenville and were identifying branches that needed to be trimmed before bad weather came, the release said. While the female suspect distracted the victim in her backyard, the male suspect entered the residence and went through several items.

Dates, times and locations of the incidents were not reported in the release.

The male suspect was described as white, slender, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with spiked dark hair. He appeared to be in his late 20s or early 30s.

The woman was described as white, with a small build, 5 feet 4 inches, blonde hair, blue eyes and nicely dressed. She also appears to be in her late 20s or early 30s.

The suspect vehicle is described as a large, white SUV with a large chrome grill or bumper.

Anyone with information should call Pitt-Greenville Crime Stoppers at 758-7777.

TEEN HELD IN STRING OF SENIOR CITIZEN CAR-JACKINGS

(HCSO) Police believe a teen in custody might be behind several stolen cars that have been taken from senior citizens.

It's a story you saw first on Good Morning Tri-State.

William Chambers, 18, was arrested Thursday in Roselawn by Cincinnati Police. An officer recognized the car as being stolen, and attempted to pull him over. He was arrested after a brief chase, according to police.

Earlier in the day, Chambers allegedly stole a Toyota Corolla from a female senior citizen in Bond Hill during a carjacking. Last Saturday, police believe he stole a Lexus. The victim in that case was also a senior citizen.

Chambers is charged with receiving stolen property, but more charges are possible.

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Banks on Alert for Scams That Target Elderly

(News 4) BEXAR COUNTY TX--

With the holidays fast approaching, and a lagging economy, the elderly are prey for scams that could cost them big. Joann Tobias-Molina of Adult Protective Services says, "They feel like this is somebody we can take from and no one will notice." Experts say the elderly often succumb to scams that can deplete them of their savings. Sadly, Adult Protect Services says even family members who are down on their luck take advantage of seniors. It's against the law, considered exploitation by the state. Experts say it's important for victims to speak out. If someone you know feels they've been scammed -- contact their home health agency, the police or the district attorney.

SOME SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR...

Sudden changes in bank accounts or banking practices
*Unexplained or unexpected withdrawal of large sums of money
*Adding names to an elderly or disabled person's bank signature card
*Unfamiliar people accompanying bank customers to withdraw large sums
*Unauthorized withdrawal of funds using ATM card or sudden transfers of assets
*Sudden changes in financial document
*Unpaid bills despite having adequate money
*Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming rights to a person's affairs and possessions
*Abuse of power of attorney.

-Provided by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Adult Protective Services

Related Links EveryonesBusiness.org

PITTSBURGH-AREA MAN SCAMS GRANDMA OUT OF HOME

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH—A prosecutor says a Pittsburgh-area man scammed his grandmother out of her home by telling her to sign over the property to him so he could get money to repair the home through a government program.

Thirty-eight-year-old Tony Armstead, of McDonald, was in custody Thursday on theft charges. Online court records do not list an attorney for him.

District Attorney Stephen Zappala Jr. says Armstead told his grandmother he wanted to reopen a storefront that is part of the property in question.

He promised to give back the property after allegedly using a power of attorney she never granted him to transfer the property to him.

Instead, Armstead sold the property for \$60,000. He allegedly gave his grandmother \$17,000 she thought was for the repairs, and used some of the other money to pay off bills.

Get the Facts on Powers of Attorney

From Janet James, Esq. ~ Va Department of Aging

For the past year or so, I have been seeing an alarming increase in abuse of POAs and DPOAs (Power of Attorney and Durable Power of Attorney – there is a difference between the two).

POAs and DPOAs are cost-effective wonderful tools that can save grief and thousands of dollars in Court costs and attorney fees down the road. But they can also be a vehicle of extreme abuse against vulnerable and/or uneducated persons in what these documents can and can not do, etc.).

I placed some updated information on VDA's website earlier this year. The link is [http://](http://www.vda.virginia.gov/pdfdocs/powerofattorney.pdf)

www.vda.virginia.gov/pdfdocs/powerofattorney.pdf

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New fraud scheme targets senior citizens

Senior citizens in Davis County and throughout the state are being warned again not to give out personal information over the telephone.

Francine A. Giani, executive director of the Utah Department of Commerce said last week that seniors need to be on the alert for fraudsters who are targeting them with a telemarketing scam in which victims are told that unless they give their bank account information to a representative of the "National Medical Department," their Medicaid/Medicare coverage will be cancelled.

Giani said those involved in the fraud also threaten to cut the senior's Social Security payments unless they give the operator the requested bank account information.

One Utah woman intercepted her 92-year-old mother who was told by the caller that he had her address, telephone number and birth date, but needed to get her bank information. The woman refused to give the information and reported the call to the Division of Consumer Protection.

Giani asks that people contact relatives, friends and neighbors to warn them of this new scam. "The tough economy has made fraudsters more aggressive in preying on the fears of Utah seniors and others over the phone," Giani warned. "Please remind your loved ones that there is no National Medical Department and no government agency would make calls demanding bank account information over the phone."

For more information on protecting yourself from consumer scams and fraud, go to www.consumerprotection.utah.gov. For questions about a possible scam or consumer complaint, contact the Division of Consumer Protection at 801-530-6601. mwilliams@davisclipper.com

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