



NORTH WOODS Village

> EDISON LAKES <

Tips for Safeguarding Your Loved One with Memory Loss from Identity Theft

If you are caring for a loved one with memory loss today, it is important to remain vigilant and to practice proven methods to safeguard them – and yourself – from identity theft. Experts in the area of identity security provide several proven practices that can prevent you and your loved one from becoming victims.

- **Shop only on safe and secure websites** – When you make a purchase and proceed to the “check out,” make sure the URL address has changed from “http” to “https,” which indicates that the website is a secure one and your purchase information has been encrypted.
- **Be cautious when using an ATM** – Beware of people lurking especially when using the ATM, credit cards, checks and your laptop or community computer.
- **Invest in a shredder** – When throwing out documents that contain personal information, shred them into tiny pieces. Also, be sure to cut up rarely used or unused cards with personal information.
- **Monitor bank, credit card and loan statements** – If you see any information that does not appear accurate, contact the company immediately.
- **Have checks delivered to your bank or post office box** – An unlocked home mailbox is an easy target.
- **Review credit reports closely** – The official toll free automated number to call and order your free annual credit reports is 877-322-8228. If you see anything suspicious, you should dispute all inaccuracies via certified mail.
- **Protect your social security number, passwords, driver’s license and PIN numbers** – This information provides easy access to your financial and legal information.
- **Use online passwords rated as high strength** – Choose passwords very carefully and maximize password strength. Avoid birth dates, pet names, favorite vacation spots and interests, as professional identity thieves could discover them.
- **Beware of scams** – Never provide any personal information such as Social Security number, bank account numbers or credit card data to anyone who contacts you via telephone solicitation, email or through social networking sites.
- **In case of an emergency, keep a list of important phone numbers handy** – They are very important if you lose your wallet or other property that contains important personal information.

If you follow these recommended procedures, you can greatly reduce the risk of your loved one falling victim to identity theft and the serious consequences that can result for your entire family! **North Woods Village at Edison Lakes** is the area’s first single-purpose residential [memory care assisted living community](#) dedicated to caring for those with Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and other memory impairment as well as providing education, support and resources to area caregivers and their families.

For more information on **North Woods Village at Edison Lakes** and our **Caregiver Education & Support Calendar**, please [contact us](#) today!

Guiding. Caring. Inspiring.