

Don't-Dos

Here's the number one Don't Do, and the hardest one for some people to overcome: Don't be afraid to ask for help. Most people want to be helpful, they just don't want to intrude or know what you need. Give them a specific way they can help. It will probably do you both good.

Everyday Life

- Don't erase any computers, laptops, tablets or phones until you find out what is on there that you may want to keep. Many people store precious photos and emails which could be lost forever. Your device may also have user names and passwords saved that could make logging into websites you want to change easier.
- Don't be in a hurry. Take time to think things through. This could range anywhere from ordering stuff online that you don't really need (guilty!) or deciding to stay or move.
- Don't take the first offer or settle for less. Unless you are already certain what a fair price for something is, do some research or get more bids before deciding. If what's being offered is not all you want, negotiate a price to include your wishes, if possible. Or look elsewhere.
- Don't fall for "Today Only!" marketing hypes. Most things that are available today will be available tomorrow, or there will be another sale. It's your money, keep it until you're sure.
- Don't fall for scams. Never open an email attachment unless you know the person it came from. Don't give out ANY personal information over the phone or on line. The IRS and Social Security will not contact you by phone, so if you get a warning call from them, ignore it. Never return a call to a "third party" who is in charge of collecting debts. Bottom line: if you did not initiate the call, don't trust it without checking it out.

Safety & Security

- Don't invite anyone into your home that you don't know or don't feel safe with
- Don't make a point of letting people know you live alone
- Don't give out too much information on social media (this includes playing games or taking surveys that ask questions such as "Favorite ____", "Where did you go to High School?" These are designed to hone in on details and make it easier to steal identities.)
- Don't live afraid, and don't be afraid to live.

*Being one doesn't have to mean being alone.
Let's help each other.*