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**For Immediate Release**  
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**DELAWARE COUNTY PRESENTS VIDEO  
ON CRIMES AGAINST SENIOR CITIZENS**

An informational video that educates and warns senior citizens and their families about crimes against the elderly is now airing on **Delco 76**, Delaware County's government access channel on Comcast.

The video, produced by Delaware County Council and featuring District Attorney Michael Green, provides valuable information to protect senior citizens from being victims of identity theft, abuse, neglect or fraud. The video is part of the educational outreach conducted by the District Attorney's Senior Exploitation Unit.

"It's a fact that as people get older, they become more vulnerable. They might suffer from poor vision, confusion, physical limitations and isolation," said District Attorney Green. "All of these factors make our seniors the perfect prey for criminals... people who will take advantage of them through financial exploitation and fraud, or harm them through physical abuse or neglect."

The video on Crimes Against Senior Citizens will air on **Delco 76** during August and September to alert seniors and their caregivers about the threats of physical, sexual and economic abuse of senior citizens. The video offers precautions to prevent seniors from being victimized.

In 2003, when the District Attorney's office saw crimes against the elderly as an alarming problem, the office assigned detectives to investigate crimes against the elderly. As a result of their work, in 2006, DA Green set up the Senior Exploitation Unit.

Detectives in the Unit target crimes against the elderly, such as fiduciary theft, identity theft, credit card misuse and physical abuse, and prosecute those who commit these crimes. In addition, they go out in the community to educate people of all ages about this issue.

Since 2003, the District Attorney's office has investigated hundreds of incidents. These cases involve all kinds of abuse from scams over the phone, to physical neglect, to theft by caregivers. In that time, losses to seniors have topped \$3 million.

*(more)*

*(Senior Crimes video continued)*

In one case, an elderly man recovering from surgery was robbed of his life savings, stolen by a hired caregiver. In another case, an elderly couple was left in deplorable conditions, hungry and disoriented, while the caregiver was billing for their care, but not showing up.

“These seniors and their stories show the critical need for education and protection,” DA Green said. “It’s family members, friends and neighbors who can make the difference... by noticing changes in a senior’s health, discrepancies in their finances or changes in their behavior.”

Mr. Green said it’s critical that people report these crimes. For information about the Senior Exploitation Unit, people can visit the District Attorney’s Web site at [www.delcoda.com](http://www.delcoda.com) or call (610) 891-5249. People can send e-mails to [seniorcrimes@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:seniorcrimes@co.delaware.pa.us). People can also call the Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) at (610) 490-1300.

Seniors and their families are encouraged to watch the Crimes Against Seniors video on **Delco 76**, which airs for seven hours throughout the day on Comcast channel 76. Viewing hours are 5-7 a.m., 8-9 a.m., 11 a.m.-noon, 2-4 p.m. and 10:30-11:30 p.m. The show also airs from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

“This is the reason that we launched Delco 76, to present important messages like this directly to our residents,” said County Council Chairman Andrew J. Reilly. “Delco 76 is just one of many ways that we communicate with residents to inform them about important county programs like the Senior Exploitation Unit.”

The video will also be made available to senior care facilities that have their own in-house TV programs. Residential senior care facilities can obtain a copy of the video from Trish Cofiell, communications officer, at (610) 891-4943.

“Senior victims are our grandparents, our parents, aunts and uncles,” DA Green said. “We love them and it’s heart-breaking to see them robbed or abused. The District Attorney’s office is working hard to keep our seniors safe and secure.”