

Contract Sales

- ✓ Before you buy, stop, think and read the fine print.
- ✓ Read and understand all contracts. Take contracts home and have another person go over the details with you.
- ✓ Demand that the sales person explain the entire contract and terms. Do not be rushed into purchasing a car or other high priced item.
- ✓ Door-to-door sales have a three-day “cooling off” period (may also be available for other types of sales).
- ✓ Be aware that the “bait and switch” is alive and well. Products advertised at a very low price “lure” customers into a store, but then the customer is sold a higher-priced product.
- ✓ Ask for a “rain check” when advertised specials are sold out.
- ✓ Do not purchase in haste—take your time. Do not wait for an emergency to purchase vehicles/or other high-priced purchases.
- ✓ Keep written warranties, but do not send in profile cards—they are sold to marketers. ***Extended warranties are seldom needed and can add as much as 50% to the price of the purchase.***

✓ Keep sales receipts and proof of purchase labels for return of merchandise and enforcing warranties.

✓ Do not co-sign for others unless you intend to pay for the purchase yourself.
You are the liable party in a default.

Credit Cards

Credit cards are high interest loans; use them with restraint.

✓ Do not “collect” credit cards; you only need one or two and too many can adversely affect your credit rating and make you an easy target for identity theft.

✓ Call your credit card company to renegotiate your interest rate or monthly payments.

✓ Check your credit rating and information with Credit Reporting Agencies yearly. You are entitled to one free credit report annually. (877-322-8228 or www.annualcreditreport.com)

✓ Shred or tear up credit card solicitations.

✓ Remove your name from credit card lists (888-567-8688).

✓ Do not give your credit card information over the telephone unless you initiated the phone call.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Credit Reporting Agencies:

Equifax 800-685-1111

Experian 888-397-3742

Trans Union 800-493-2392

NM Better Business Bureau
505-346-0110

Federal Consumer Credit Counseling
800-388-2227

NM Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
866-627-3249

Identity Theft Hotline
877-438-4338

National Do Not Call Registry
888-382-1222
www.donotcall.gov

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
877-382-4357
www.ftc.gov

Annual Credit Report
Request Service
877-322-8288
www.annualcreditreport.com

More Consumer Tips

- ✓ Do not give your social security number or other personal data over the telephone if you did not initiate the call.
- ✓ Do not keep your social security card in your wallet and do not list it on your checks. Do not leave it easily accessible.
- ✓ When asked to give your social security number, ask why it is needed and how it is used. Ask to give only the last four digits.
- ✓ Shield your ATM PIN and keep other personal identification numbers safe and confidential.
- ✓ Quickly notify all relevant agencies if identity theft occurs—the police, your credit card company, social security, and credit reporting agencies.
- ✓ Watch what you put into your trash; tear or shred all personal information before disposing it.
- ✓ Tell your bank, credit card and telephone companies and other consumer businesses to protect your privacy and that you do not want your information “shared” with their affiliates, associates or business partners.

- ✓ Avoid disclosures of personal information, such as on checks, rebate forms, warranty cards. Give out information only as necessary.
- ✓ Tell unwanted telemarketers to remove you from their calling list immediately.
- ✓ Read credit card and bank statements immediately upon receipt so you know the charges listed belong to you.

Senior Citizens' Law Office
4317 Lead SE, Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 265-2300
www.sclonm.org

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CONSUMER TIPS:

AVOIDING TRAPS AND PITFALLS



***Where is there Dignity unless there is
Honesty?***

Cicero 106 B.C.