

Beware of phony social security representatives

Someone falsely representing himself as a Social Security representative could be trying to sell area seniors unnecessary insurance. The Social Security Administration reports someone claiming to be an agency representative approached a Livonia woman Nov. 14 at the woman's Livonia home. The man allegedly told the woman she lacked Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) and that he would sell her

hospital coverage for \$800. The man, who reportedly gave his name as Donald Wright, said he had been instructed by the government to contact people whose last names began with "K". He reportedly gave the woman an 800 telephone number. The woman described Wright as a

white male, about 200 pounds and between 30-40 years old. He reportedly drove a brown Ford Bronco or Jeep.

Social Security employees carry identification when calling on seniors at home. They never attempt to sell anything to the public.

consumer mailbag

Part II on Noise Pollution:

In addition to causing permanent hearing loss, noise can produce other health problems.

Noise leads to stress. The results can cause sleeplessness, depression, irritability and/or aggressive or hostile behavior. High noise levels can also elevate blood pressure, increase heart and breathing rates and cause muscle tension. These changes occur both awake and asleep, and the noise does not have to be loud to produce these changes.

Noise can also reduce a child's ability to learn. Concentration is easily interrupted and a young student's ability to read and pronounce words correctly can be hampered by continuous exposure to high noise levels.

THERE ARE two approaches to control noise:

1. The reduction of noise at its source through the manufacture of quieter products.

2. The alteration of the sound path through distance or by shielding between spaces, such as improved wall insulation to reduce noise penetration.

Suggestions to reduce noise levels:

- Use appliances one at a time, or schedule multiple use when you can leave the room.
- Keep motors and mufflers in good repair.
- Use lined drapes and insulation to reduce outdoor noise penetration.
- When replacing worn appliances, select quieter models. Remember, noise level no longer indicates the power of an appliance.
- Keep telephone bells, stereos and TVs at the lowest level at which they can be heard. Headphones should only be used at very low volume to prevent hearing damage.
- Upholstered furniture and padded carpet help absorb loud noises.



Terry Gibb

Carpeting is particularly effective in upstairs rooms and hallways.

• Make sure large applications don't rest against a wall. The wall acts as a sounding board and amplifies the noise.

• Use a low or slow setting when possible; it will be quieter.

• Roll up car windows when traveling through noisy traffic areas.

• Wear ear protectors when working with noisy tools or machinery.

Muffs that cover the ear or plugs that fit in the ear can be bought at sporting goods stores. Using cotton in your ears doesn't work.

ECO-TIP: For more information on noise pollution and its effects, write for noise pamphlets from the EPA, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20460.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, One Kennedy Square, Fourth Floor, Detroit 48226.

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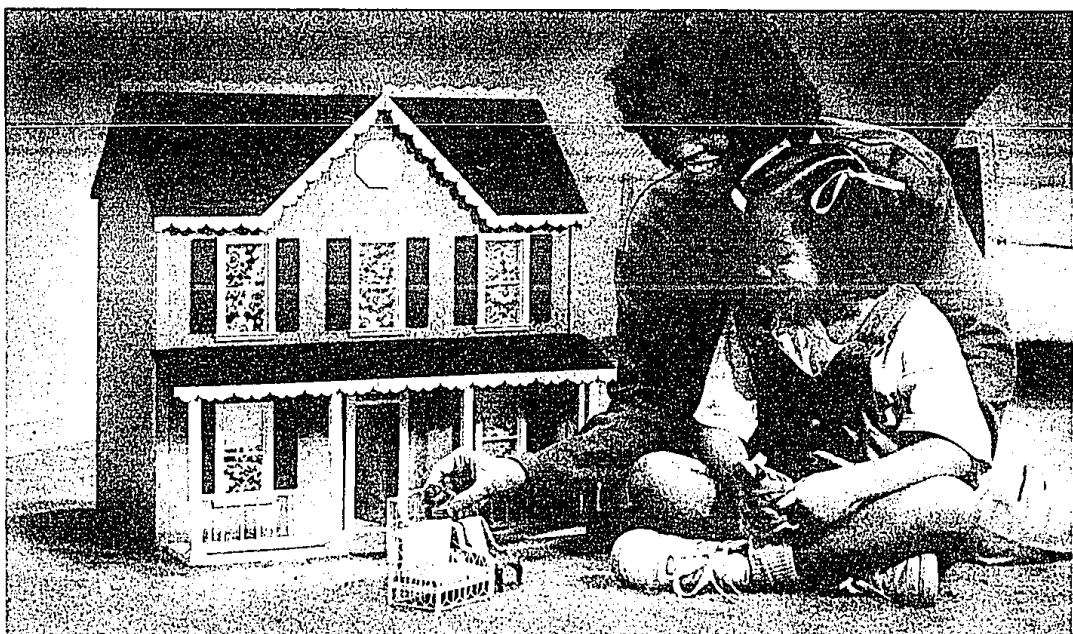
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