

Dear Neighbor,

As your state representative, it is an honor and privilege to serve you. I am dedicated to protecting senior citizens, and will continue to support efforts to improve life for all Michiganders.

This newsletter highlights grandparent rights, legislation I have co-sponsored, and information regarding how you can prevent identity theft.

My staff and I are committed to serving with integrity and remaining accessible to you. Listening to your concerns and delivering results is an important part of my job. I will continue to work with my colleagues to protect senior citizens in Michigan.

When you have questions or concerns regarding legislation or state government, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Sincerely,

**STEVE MARINO**

State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**STEVE MARINO**  
P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514



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[www.RepMarino.com](http://www.RepMarino.com)

## SENIOR RESOURCES

- Abuse and Neglect Reporting ..... (855) 444-3911
- Do Not Call Registry ..... (888) 382-1222
- Legal Hotline for MI Seniors ..... (800) 347-5297
- Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program ..... (800) 803-7174
- MI Consumer Protection Division ..... (877) 765-8388
- Social Security Administration ..... (800) 772-1213

### WANT TO STAY UP-TO-DATE?

Yes! Please send me Rep. Marino's e-mail updates

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out form and mail in an envelope to:

State Rep. Steve Marino | P.O. Box 30014 | Lansing, MI 48909-7514

### Booklets Available Upon Request

- Changes and Choices  
*Legal Rights of Senior Adults*
- Peace of Mind  
*A Guide to Medical and Legal Decisions*
- Consumer Protection Guide
- Services for Seniors
- Michigan in the Civil War
- Veterans Benefits

# Giving You Peace of Mind for the Future

Senior Update 2017

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# Giving You Peace of Mind for the Future



## Knowing Your Rights as a Grandparent

I want to make sure you realize that Michigan grandparents have visitation rights to see their grandchildren. I believe if a grandparent is responsible when seeing their grandchild, then they should be able to do so.

Visitation rights are awarded if the parents of the grandchild are divorced, separated or a marriage has been annulled. Grandparents may also receive visitation if a parent is deceased. In addition, grandparents may seek visitation if the child is not living with a parent.

If the grandparent shows the court that the child will suffer harm by not seeing him or her, the court must then decide how much visitation is appropriate. The court determines visitation time based on their prior relationship, moral fitness and any other factors relevant to the physical and psychological well-being of the child.

Michigan's laws regarding grandparent visitation are lengthy and detailed and are there to protect the relationship between a grandchild and their loving grandparents.

## Marino Co-Sponsors Legislation to Reduce the Tax Burden

In 2011, Michigan made several changes to the tax code, including eliminating the pension and retirement exemption for many taxpayers. This session, I co-sponsored legislation that would significantly lower the tax burden for retirees.

If enacted, the proposal (HB 4159) will increase the retirement income subtractions for both single and joint filers. As a result, this legislation will reduce the portion of one's retirement income that is subject to state tax and lower the tax obligation for Michigan retirees and seniors.

Most senior citizens are dependent on a fixed income and the 2011 policy change had a significant impact on their pocketbooks. This bill will greatly reduce the tax burden placed on these hard-working citizens and allow them to keep more of their income during their retirement years. HB 4159 was referred to the Tax Policy Committee for consideration.



## Avoiding Identity Theft

More than \$16 billion was stolen from U.S. consumers in 2016 related to identity theft. In the past six years, identity thieves have stolen over \$107 billion.

Identity theft is a silent crime. Experienced criminals may use your identifying information for months or years while you remain unaware. Often, consumers do not learn they are victims until they have been denied credit because of negative entries on their credit reports.

**IF YOU  
BECOME  
A VICTIM**



Visit the federal government one-stop resource ([www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov)) to help you report and recover from identity theft. The Federal Trade Commission will help you develop a recovery plan, including what to do right away; how to place a fraud alert and get your credit reports; and how to file a report with your local police department.

To reduce the risk of identity theft, never give out a Social Security number, account number, or identifying information to someone who calls and demands personal information. Review records, especially credit card, bank and mortgage statements. Michigan has many ID theft laws to protect victims and prosecute thieves. A victim has a right to file a police report and courts may impose a \$25,000 fine and a consecutive sentence of up to five years for offenders.

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