

Family Safety in the Age of Technology & AI

Practical steps to protect your family, your identity, and your assets

1. Passwords & Account Security

- ✓ Use a password manager (1Password, Bitwarden, Apple Passwords)
- ✓ Create unique passwords for every account — never reuse
- ✓ Enable 2FA on email, banking, and social media
- ✓ Use an authenticator app, not SMS — SMS can be intercepted

Tip: Secure your email first — a compromised email resets every other account.

2. Device Security

- ✓ 6-digit+ passcode on all phones and tablets
- ✓ Enable Face ID / Touch ID
- ✓ Turn on Find My iPhone / Find My Device
- ✓ Enable automatic OS updates
- ✓ Revoke unnecessary app permissions (contacts, microphone, location)
- ✓ Google Family Link / Screen Time for children's devices

3. Safeguarding Important Documents

- ✓ Store wills, POAs, and deeds in a fireproof safe
- ✓ Ensure two trusted people know where docs are and how to access them
- ✓ We store original estate documents in our fireproof vault — at no charge

Note: safe deposit boxes may not be immediately accessible after death in PA

4. Family Safe Words & AI Voice Cloning

- ✓ Choose a word/phrase not used in normal conversation
- ✓ All family members — including children and elderly — should know it
- ✓ Ask for the safe word before acting on any urgent call
- ✓ Never share the safe word by text, email, or phone
- ✓ Change it periodically

Tip: AI can clone a voice from seconds of audio. A safe word defeats it immediately.

5. Common Scams — Know the Playbook

Scam Type	How to Protect Yourself
Grandparent / Jail Scam	Hang up. Call the family member directly.
IRS / Tax Scam	IRS communicates by mail, never by phone. Hang up.
Romance Scam	Never send money to someone you haven't met in person.
Tech Support Scam	Apple/Microsoft never call you. Close the pop-up.
AI Voice Clone	Use your family safe word. Call back on a known number.
Phishing Email/Text	Never click links in unexpected messages.
Deed / Title Fraud	Sign up for free county deed monitoring alerts.

Universal rule: Legitimate organizations never pressure you to act immediately, pay by gift card, or keep a transaction secret.

6. Property Deed Monitoring

- ✓ Deed fraud: criminal files forged deed, takes loans against your home
- ✓ Westmoreland County: free alerts at westmorelandcountypa.gov
- ✓ Allegheny County: free alerts through the Recorder of Deeds
- ✓ Check your county recorder website periodically
- ✓ Contact your attorney immediately if you receive unexpected deed notices

7. Your Digital Legacy

- ✓ List all digital accounts — email, banking, social media, crypto
- ✓ Set up Apple Legacy Contact or Google Inactive Account Manager
- ✓ Store your password manager master password in your fireproof safe
- ✓ Include digital asset authority in your power of attorney
- PA law (20 Pa.C.S. § 5601) explicitly allows this

Family Safety Checklist

- ✓ Password manager + unique passwords for ~~type-ahead~~ directly.
- ✓ 2FA enabled on email and financial accounts
- ✓ 6-digit+ passcode on all devices
- ✓ Find My iPhone / Find My Device enabled
- ✓ Family safe word established
- ✓ Important documents in fireproof safe
- ✓ County deed monitoring alert set up
- ✓ Estate plan reviewed within the last 3–5 years
- ✓ Digital assets addressed in estate plan