Report Financial Exploitation

Consequences include emotional loss, hospitalization, and financial loss.

Victim Notification Hotline

1-855-4VICTIM (1-855-484-2846)

Get the facts about financial exploitation.

ElderJustice.gov

For more information about the Department of Justice's efforts to prevent and combat elder exploitation, please visit the Elder Justice Website.


There are many types of financial exploitation, and it can be difficult to know what to do when it happens. Only 1 in 4 incidents of financial harm is reported to authorities. Financial exploitation is a multi-billion dollar industry.
Types of Financial Exploitation

Examples of financial exploitation include:

- Using ATM cards without permission
- Forging a signature on a check or property title (wills, deeds)
- Telling an older adult money is needed for college expenses when the money is really being used for other purposes
- Using a power of attorney to benefit oneself rather than the older adult
- Unauthorized sales, such as a family ring or the family farm
- Threats to harm precious property if money is not handed over

Warning Signs of Financial Exploitation

There are a number of warning signs to watch for, including:

- Sudden changes in banking practices
- Being accompanied to the bank by an unknown person
- Adding a new name on a bank signature card
- Sudden changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or possessions
- Substandard care or unpaid bills when there are adequate financial resources
- Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives

Protect Yourself If from Financial Exploitation

There are several things you can do to help protect your money:

- Check your financial statements each month
- Store financial materials in a locked drawer or out of sight
- Give your power of attorney CFPB’s “Help For Agents Under A Power of Attorney”
- Talk to your bank about ge-friendly banking options
- Contact a civil legal attorney before signing documents
- Visit ftc.gov every year to get your free credit reports