

ELDER FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Financial exploitation is the misuse of another's person's money, property, or resources for self-gain. This can be committed by strangers online or by telephone, such as:

- The Grandparent Scam
- The Government Imposter Scam
- The Romance Scam

Financial exploitation can also be committed by someone the older adult knows and trusts, like a family member.

Why is elder financial fraud important to you?

- Your financial health affects your overall physical and mental health.
- While anyone can experience fraud and exploitation, older adults are often at an increased risk to due to age or disease-related changes.
- Changes in your ability to make important decisions can leave you vulnerable to someone who may handle your affairs differently than you would.
- The population of older adults vulnerable to financial fraud is large and growing.

RESOURCES

National Elder Fraud Hotline
1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311)

If you or someone you know has been a victim of elder fraud, help is standing by at the National Elder Fraud Hotline.

Adult Protective Services

www.napsa-now.org

1-800-917-7383

Answered 24 Hours per day

APS protects older adults from abuse and exploitation through investigation and intervention.

Maryland Access Point

211

Information, planning, and access for community services and supports.

ElderSAFE™ Center

301-816-5099

Offers safe, temporary shelter, education, and advocacy on behalf of abused, neglected, and financially exploited older adults in MD, DC, and NoVA.

National Center on Elder Abuse

1-855-500-3537

www.ncea.aoa.gov

NCEA works with State and local partners to ensure that older Americans live with dignity and without abuse.

KEY FINANCIAL PROTECTION TIPS



Learn how to protect yourself and your family from senior financial exploitation



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Talk to someone you trust if you are confused or uncomfortable about a financial decision.
- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers.
- Don't open emails or attachments from unknown senders.
- Hang up right away on robocalls or telemarketers.
- Never give personal information over the phone or by email, including date of birth, SSN, bank account information, Medicare number, or passwords.
- Scammers often make threats and false promises.
- Always take time to think before sending money or providing information to someone.
- You should never be asked to pay bills or debts through gift cards or money transfers.
- Don't take surveys or play games online that ask for personal information.

**Carroll County State's Attorney
SCAM HOTLINE
443-340-5649**

RED FLAGS

The following are signs that someone might be experiencing financial exploitation or may be at an increased risk.

- ✓ Socially isolated, lonely, depressed
- ✓ A recent loss of a loved one, such as a spouse
- ✓ Memory loss, poor decision making
- ✓ Poor hygiene, malnutrition, dehydration
- ✓ Confusion over finances
- ✓ Financially responsible for an adult or another family member
- ✓ Recent strange or out of character purchases
- ✓ Unexpected changes to financial documents, such as a will or Power of Attorney
- ✓ Giving gifts/loans you can't afford
- ✓ Running out of money too quickly/money disappearing
- ✓ Regretting financial decisions

