



Protection from Financial/Elder Abuse – Checklist

1. Create a habit of carefully reviewing your bills, credit card, bank account and other financial statements on a regular basis. Question unusual transactions.
2. Create a system of checks and balances. If you are working with a family member to manage your finances, also engage a bookkeeper as a third party to review and ensure your assets are being used responsibly.
3. Create a team of trusted advisors, such as an attorney, a CPA/accountant, a bookkeeper, along with your family members and friends, to support your decisions and protect your assets.
4. Once these systems are created, make sure to engage and follow-up with them regularly as to any updates.
5. Review your legal documents and asset titling at least annually. Make this part of your annual review with your financial advisor or around tax time, when you are reviewing your finances anyway.
6. If you don't understand something, make sure to ask and get more information. Take the time to educate yourself on your own situation so you can protect yourself.
7. Have honest discussions about your finances and your wishes with your family members and loved ones. They might have questions – be candid so that your intent is clear.
8. Whenever someone new is coming into your house (caregiver, new neighbor, new “friend”, etc.), make it part of the norm that another family member or loved one is checking-in on you.
9. If you believe someone is trying to take advantage of you or taking actions that make you uncomfortable, engage your “superhero” team of trusted advisors so that they can take steps to intervene immediately.