



Elder Financial Exploitation



What is Elder Financial Exploitation?

Someone stealing money, selling or trading property, keeping money and property away from the older person, or using the senior's bank accounts and credit cards for their gain is committing elder financial exploitation. It can be committed by a loved one, caregiver or complete stranger.



COMMON TYPES OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- Unauthorized sale of personal property
- Changes in official documents (powers of attorney, will, etc.)
- Theft of money
- Unauthorized loans, charges or withdrawals



RISK FACTORS

- Social isolation
- Family or caregivers who are financially dependent on you
- Relying on family members or friends to handle your money
- Cognitive challenges, memory issues or other disabling condition



WARNING SIGNS

- Money missing from your bank account
- Unexplained charges to your credit card
- Pressure to make changes to your power of attorney or will
- Attempts to isolate you from your family and friends
- Threats of harm, neglect, abandonment or to force you from your home



TIPS TO AVOID FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

- **Prepare** legal documents (powers of attorney) designating a trusted reliable person who will follow your health and financial wishes.
- **Keep** strong connections with friends, family or neighbors to avoid isolation.
- **Keep** your personal financial and insurance information out of sight of guests and caregivers.
- **Tell** your bank what trusted person they can notify of unusual account activity.
- **Don't** share your financial or insurance information with callers.
- **Notify** the financial institution or medical provider of suspicious activity on statements.



RESOURCES FOR REPORTING

Pro Seniors provides a free Legal Helpline for legal information, advice and referrals for Ohio residents age 60 and older. **Call 1-800-488-6070 or visit www.proseniors.org.**

Report Your Concerns To:

- **Your local police department**
- **Ohio Attorney General**
Call 1-800-282-0515 or visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov
- **Adult Protective Services**
Helps vulnerable adults age 60 and older who are in danger of harm and are unable to protect themselves. Call 1-855-OHIO-APS 1-855-644-6277
- **Ohio's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**
Advocates for people using home care, assisted living or nursing home care. Call 1-800-282-1206 or www.aging.ohio.gov
- **Ohio's Senior Medicare Patrol**
Will help you review and report suspicious activity on your Medicare statement. Call 513-458-5523 or www.proseniors.org/Ohio-SMP/



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