

PROTECT AGAINST FINANCIAL ABUSE



¹Elder abuse can be defined as a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Financial abuse is one of the most common forms of elder abuse in Canada.

Protect yourself from financial abuse:

- Keep your personal and financial information (PIN, passwords etc.) safe, do not share this information
- Lend money only if you want to, and have a signed document for repayment or if you don't expect it back
- Set up automatic payments for bills and deposits into your bank account; review your financial records for anything unusual
- Understand all documents before you sign them
- Have an enduring or continuing power of attorney appointing someone you trust to look after you and your finances
- Stay connected with family, friends and your community

Recognize some of the warning signs of financial abuse:

- Lack of food, unpaid bills or eviction notices piling up in the home
- Confusion about financial situation, signing of legal documents
- Withdrawals or bank transfers or disappearance of belongings or property that the senior cannot explain
- Suspicious signatures on cheques or other documents
- Abrupt changes in a will or power of attorney
- High risk portfolios or investments that do not reflect the risk profile of the older investor

Where there's one form of abuse, there may also be other forms of abuse. If you suspect elder abuse, call:

Your local police

Seniors Safety Line

1-866-299-1011

Assaulted Women's Helpline

1-866-863-0511

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

1-888-495-8501

Consumer Rights Inquiry Line

1-800-889-9768

JusticeNet

1-866-919-3219

Legal Aid Ontario

1-800-668-8258

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee

1-800-366-0335

Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-8477

¹World Health Organization definition

Ontario Securities Commission

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