

Understanding Elder Financial Abuse.

Tips for Service Providers



What is Financial Abuse?

Financial abuse happens when someone uses money or property to control or exploit someone else. It can involve:

- taking someone's money or property without permission
- withholding or limiting money to control someone
- pressuring someone to sign documents
- forcing someone to sell things or change a will

Most forms of financial abuse are crimes, including theft and fraud.⁽ⁱ⁾

Warning Signs to Look out for

- Cancelling services or care
- Misusing bank and credit cards
- Unauthorized sale of items such as a family heirloom
- Giving away or selling the older adult's possessions or property without their permission
- Signing or cashing pension cheques without permission

Be Aware of Family Financial and Legal Arrangements.

Sudden changes to legal documents, such as:

- Power of Attorney
- Joint bank accounts
- Deed or title transfers of homes / cars
- Living Trust or Will

Who can cause harm?

- Intimate Partners
- Family Members
- Friends
- Caregivers
- Stranger
- Persons who befriend an older person
- People with unique trust relationships
- Financial Services Providers

Where to get help

Report abuse when you see it!

➤ **If you are concerned about financial abuse of seniors, report it to your local police**

➤ **[Advocacy Center of the Elderly \(ACE\)](http://www.ancelaw.ca)**
1-855-598-2656 | www.ancelaw.ca

➤ **Reach out for a consultation**
[Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario](https://eapon.ca/)
416-916-6728 | <https://eapon.ca/>

➤ **Reach out for support, if person is at risk**
[Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee](https://ontario.ca/page/office-public-guardian-and-trustee)
1-844-640-3615 | ontario.ca/page/office-public-guardian-and-trustee

Tips on how to prevent it

Questions to Ask Your Client

- Who makes decisions about your finances?
- Who handles your finances?
- How were your finances handled a year ago?
- Do you receive your bank statements?
- Do you know where you currently bank?
- Have your spending patterns changed?
- Have you created or changed an existing power of attorney? Trust? Other accounts?
- Has anyone asked you to sign something you did not understand? Did not want to sign?
- Do you have any concerns about your finances?

(i) [Department of Justice Canada](https://www24.international.gc.ca/department-departement/department-departement.aspx?lang=eng)



WomanACT

<https://womanact.ca>

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Elder Abuse
Prevention
Ontario

<https://eapon.ca>

416.916.6728