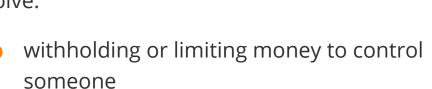
Understanding Elder Financial Abuse. *Tips for Service Providers*

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
- 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

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!

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

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?



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

Advocacy Center of the Elderly (ACE)

<u>1-855-598-2656</u> |www.acelaw.ca

Reach out for a consultation

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

416-916-6728 | <u>https://eapon.ca/</u>

Reach out for support, if person is at risk

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee

1-844-640-3615 | <u>ontario.ca/page/office-</u> <u>public-guardian-and-trustee</u>

(i) Department of Justice Canada

- 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?



