# Understanding **Financial** Abuse.

Tips for Seniors. Infographic

## What is Financial Abuse

Financial mistreatment is characterized by acts, words, attitudes or lack of appropriate actions that cause or risk causing negative consequences on the financial integrity, health, security and well-being of an older person or their property.<sup>(i)</sup>

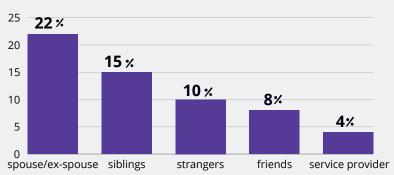
## **1 OUT OF 10**



seniors experience emotional or financial abuse by an intimate partner (ii)



of the incidents of financial abuse, the perpetrator is an adult child or guardian (iii)



# **Know the** Warning Signs

- Taking older adult's money (sometimes by force), or selling property or valuables
- Borrowing money without any intention of paying it back
- Denying services or care
- Signing or cashing pension cheques without permission
- Misusing bank and credit cards

# **Tips on How to Prevent It**

### Plan for your future and communicate your wishes

- Plan ahead, while you are independent and mentally capable
- Establish a Power of Attorney or a Living Will
- Seek alternative options for care beyond family members
- Think carefully before making changes to your living situation

### Advocate for your rights

- If you are not satisfied with care services you receive, voice the challenge, place a complaint
  - Educate yourself about your rights and the signs of elder abuse
- Report abuse when you see it

## Where to get help

#### **Reach out for a consultation Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario**

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

**Reach out for legal support Pro Bono Ontario** 

1-855-255-7256 | probonoontario.org

(i) Mistreatment of Older Persons: Federal Policy Definition - Explanatory Document (ii) Violence against seniors and their perceptions of safety in Canada, 2022-07-07 (Statistique Canada: <u>www.150.Stats.ca</u>)

(iii) Into the Light: National Survey on the Mistreatment of Older Canadians (NICE)

