

Identifying and Preventing Financial Exploitation



ELDER ABUSE ALLIANCE

www.elderabusealliance.org

eaagenesee@gmail.com

P.O. Box 998, Flint, MI 48501

Definition of Financial Exploitation:

Illegal or improper use of an older person's funds, property or resources.

Consequences:

- Financial hardship
- Embarrassment
- Loss of independence
- Possible loss of home and possessions

Warning signs:

- Changes in patterns of financial activity (withdrawals/spending/credit card use)
- Unusual gifts
- Appearance of new people in an elder's life (a "new best friend" or a previously estranged relative)
- Change in legal documents (will/POA)
- Unpaid bills, shut off notices
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or property

Examples of Financial Exploitation:

- Using ATM and credit cards without permission
- Forging signatures on checks and/or legal documents
- Using Power of Attorney to benefit the exploiter
- Selling property or resources without permission
- Borrowing funds without repayment

How to Protect Yourself:

- Review bank and credit card statements monthly
- Secure all financial information in a safe place
- Select Power Of Attorney/Agent carefully
- Have legal documents reviewed by an attorney before signing
- Don't leave personal information exposed (check book, credit cards, wallets)

**No one deserves to be abused!
If you see or suspect elder
abuse, take action.**

How to Report

To report suspected abuse, first contact the **State of Michigan's Centralized Intake Unit at 855-444-3911**. If there is immediate danger, call 911. If a crime may have been committed, in addition to calling Central Intake, contact the **Genesee County Sheriff's Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Unit at 810-257-3422**.