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What Is Elder Financial Abuse— And How Can You Prevent It?

One in ten Americans aged 60+ have experienced elder abuse—and one of the most frequent forms of elder abuse is financial. It can be difficult to detect because it's often done by family members, trusted friends and caregivers. Here are red flags to watch out for:

- Sudden changes in their bank accounts, such as adding new signers
- The sudden transfer of assets to someone outside the family
- Finding unpaid bills, letters from collection agencies or past due notices from creditors even if the person has adequate financial resources
- A change in spending habits, such as no longer wanting to go shopping or out to eat

Here are suggestions for protecting yourself and your loved ones:

1. Reduce the opportunity for phone scams. Register with the national Do Not Call registry. Visit DoNotCall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you wish to register.
2. Never give out your bank account numbers, Social Security number, personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords, etc. unless you initiate the contact.
3. Keep your checkbook, account statements, and other sensitive information in a safe place. Shred paper documents containing sensitive information that are no longer needed.
4. Closely monitor your bank account activity and regularly review your credit report.
5. Take your time when deciding on a major financial decision.

If you suspect someone you know is a victim of elder financial abuse, please contact us by calling 315-797-2761.

Information:
315-797-2700

Checking:
315-797-2761

24-Hour Banking:
315-797-2710

Toll Free:
800-442-1028

Fax:
315-797-2707



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