



Federal-State Working Group: Fraud Against Older Oregonians

AUGUST 22, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE



OVCTTAC
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME Training and Technical Assistance Center



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- ▶ If you are experiencing any technical issues with the audio for this session, please let us know in the feedback box.
- ▶ If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Jason Adams, who is providing technical support for this webinar. His email address is jadams@ovcttac.org.
- ▶ Today's session will be recorded and made available on the training website.
- ▶ If you have questions, type them in the feedback box. We will address as many as possible throughout the webinar.

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The **mission** is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target older adults.

The Initiative does so by—

- Promoting justice for older adults.
- Helping older victims and their families.
- Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources.
- Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice.



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE (EJI)

REPORT ABUSE OR FIND HELP

New on ElderJustice.gov

EJI launches the MDT Toolkit and Guide for elder abuse case review MDTs



1 2 3 4



Elder abuse is a complex issue that intersects with many disciplines.

Elder abuse can happen to anyone. It affects people of every ethnic background, gender, and financial status.

PRESENTERS



Shane Winder

Special Agent, Social Security Administration

Donna Maddux

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Fraud Unit



Federal-State Working Group: Fraud Against Older Oregonians



Social Services Fraud Working Group

Why is any of this
important to know for
elder abuse, and what
does SSA have to do
with it?

What are the benefits the elderly may be receiving?

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

SNAP provides a monthly supplement for purchasing nutritious food. It is a needs-based benefit that is distributed monthly on an EBT card.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

The TANF program provides temporary financial assistance for pregnant women and families with one or more dependent children. TANF provides financial assistance to help pay for food, shelter, utilities, and expenses other than medical.

What are the benefits the elderly may be receiving?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

SSI is a needs-based program that provides stipends to low income people who are either age 65 or older, blind, or disabled. SSI pays benefits based on financial need.

Retirement Insurance Benefits (RIB):

These are monthly benefits that apply to individuals who have earned enough Social Security credits and are at least age 62.

What are the benefits the elderly may be receiving?

Disability Insurance Benefits (DIB):

DIB pays monthly benefits to the disabled person and certain members of their family if they are "insured," meaning they worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes (OASDI).

Medicaid:

Medicaid provides a broad level of health insurance coverage, including doctor visits, hospital expenses, nursing home care, home health care, etc. Medicaid also covers long-term care costs, for both a nursing home and at-home care.

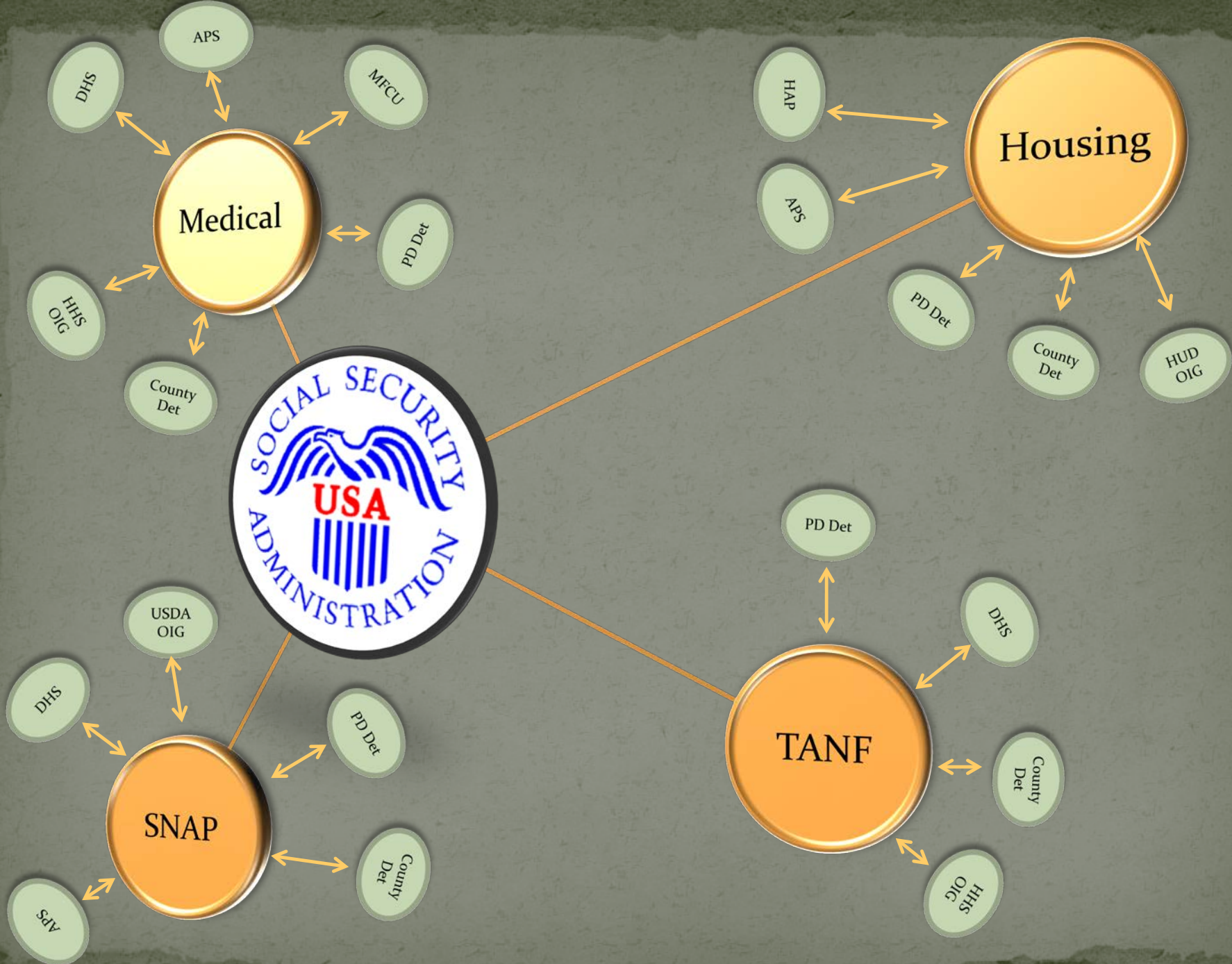
What are the benefits the elderly may be receiving?

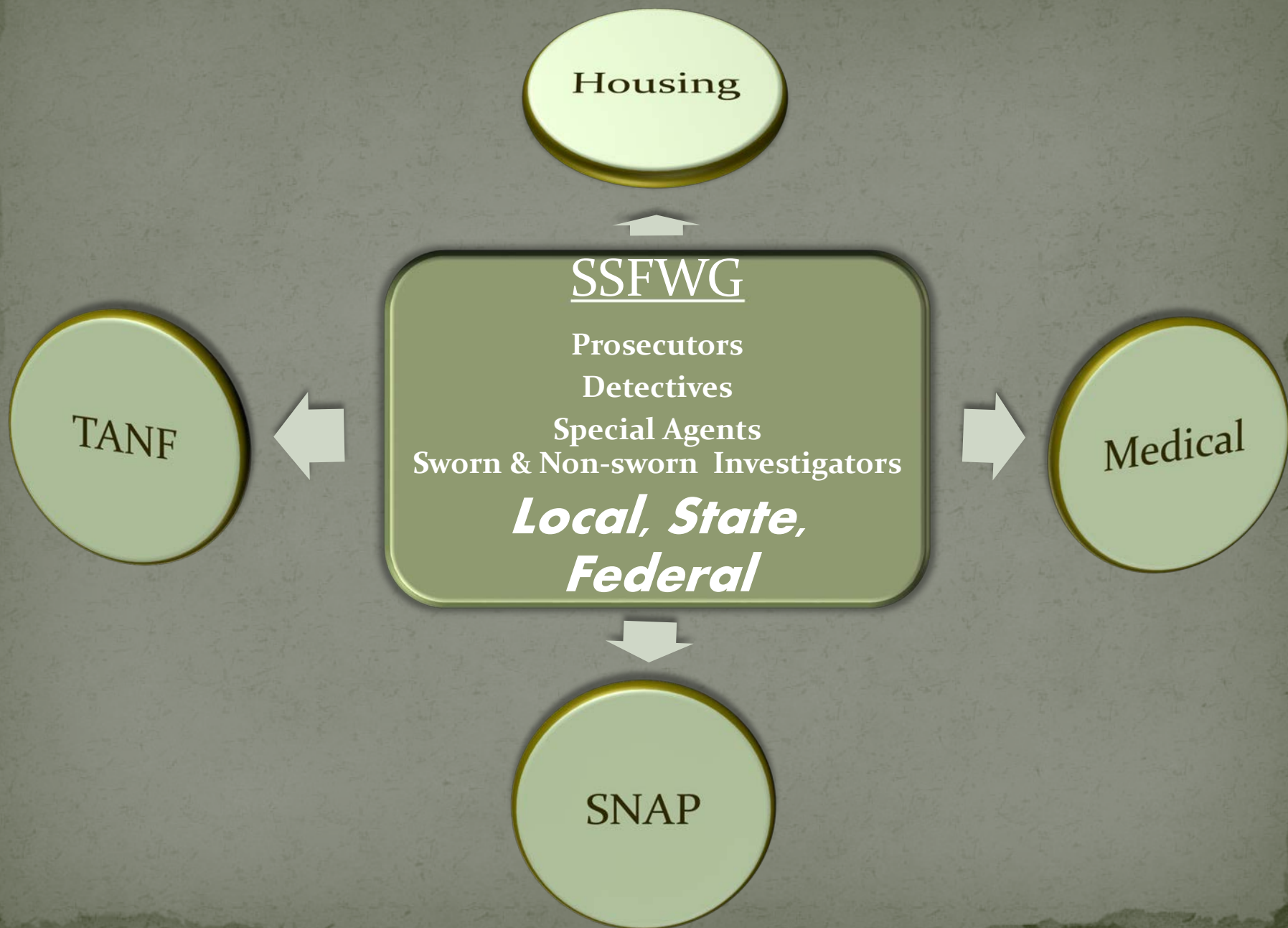
Medicare:

Medicare is the Federal Government program that provides health care coverage (health insurance) if you are 65 or older or under 65 and receive DIB for a certain amount of time.

Housing:

Housing programs allow private landlords to rent apartments and homes at fair market rates to qualified low income tenants, with a rental subsidy paid by the government. "Section 8" is a common name for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, there is also a rural subsidy program.





SSFWG Mission:



The mission of the Oregon Social Services Fraud Working Group (SSFWG) is to promote and encourage the confidential sharing of information between law enforcement agencies and government investigators who are involved in the investigation of ID theft, the fraudulent receipt of government benefits, the abuse of the elderly and disabled, and other related financial crimes. Information is shared to assist members with the identification of fraudulent schemes and their facilitators.



First Social Services Fraud Working Group Meeting held January 13, 2011:

- 9 agencies present, 19 attendees



6 YEARS LATER . . .

- More than 32 different agencies
- More than 150 different law enforcement contacts
- Spawned additional SSFWGs in Alaska, Idaho, Utah, and Washington State.

Hosted monthly at the USAO, same day, same time, regardless of who can, or cannot, attend. Only cancelled four times in 6 years.



Social Services Fraud Working Group



- Social Security Administration OIG
- Housing and Urban Development OIG
- Health and Human Services OIG
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs OIG
- Oregon Dept. of Human Services
- Washington Dept. of Social and Human Services
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture OIG
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon Medicaid Fraud Unit
- Oregon Department of Justice
- U.S. FDA, Office of Criminal Investigations
- Oregon Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigations
- Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations
- U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service
- U.S. Department of Labor OIG
- Homeland Security Investigations
- Washington Department of Labor and Industries
- Oregon Construction Contractors Board
- U.S. Postal Service OIG
- Oregon Department of Revenue
- Portland Police Bureau
- U.S. Department of Education OIG
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- Marion County DA Office
- Multnomah County DA Office
- Washington County DA Office
- Vancouver Police Department
- Clark County Sheriff's Department
- Beaverton Police Department
- Hillsboro Police Department
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

BUT HOW DID WE GET HERE?



- Lack of resources and staffing
- Needed a deeper understanding of how other social services work
- Recognized that multiple agencies were typically involved in one fraud scheme

What is the OIG agent's role?



- Co-host and color commentary
- Bring topics to discuss
- Send meeting reminders and summaries of prior meeting
- Network and invite other agencies into the fold
- Locate potential presenters and training opportunities

What is the AUSA's role?



- Provide conference room and co-host with OIG
- If you bring it, they will come
- Share cases and fraud trends of interest to the group
- Alert the group to USAO events and policy that affect investigations
- Meet with Special Agents in Charge (SAC)



SSFWG Success Stories



THE BOUTROS BUNCH




THE BOUTROS BUNCH



THE BOUTROS BUNCH

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SUGGEST

Unemployed man who ‘wore lots of jewelry’ busted for disability fraud

By Elizabeth Harrington • Published March 31, 2014 • Washington Free Beacon

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An Oregon man described as someone who "wore lots of jewelry" and "flashed pictures of trips to Lebanon" was caught in a disability fraud scheme that cost the government more than \$200,000.

Jason I. Boutros, 49, bought a silver Mercedes SL500 roadster and a tanning bed with the help of the federal government, according to the Social Security Administration (SSA).

"An unemployed Southeast Portland man who reportedly wore lots of jewelry, flashed pictures of trips to Lebanon and owned a Mercedes was sentenced to six months of prison Wednesday for cashing disability checks for a sister who was living outside the United States," according to an article by the Oregonian, which was posted on the SSA website on Friday. His prison term begins May 19.

Boutros will also have to pay nearly \$221,000 in restitution to the SSA and the Oregon Department of Human Services, for the scheme that involved him and four family members who received disability, Medicaid, and food stamps, even though they lived in Lebanon for "long stretches."

The scheme lasted nearly a decade, from March 2002 to August 2011, according to the indictment. Boutros was receiving disability benefits by electronic payment from the SSA directly into "various" Bank of America accounts.

Trending in Politics

- 1 Bebelius botches farewell
- 2 "Double Standard": US blocking Voice of America
- 3 Shoe thrown at Hillary Clinton speech
- 4 Air Marshal director says agency gun scheme pre
- 5 Nevada officials blast \$100 million cattle rancher Cliven B

THE BOUTROS BUNCH



On March 19, 2014, Jason BOUTROS appeared in U.S. District Court, District of Oregon for sentencing. BOUTROS was sentenced to 6 months incarceration, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to make restitution of \$131,017.90 to the Social Security Administration, and \$89,546.79 to the Oregon Department of Human Services. BOUTROS was also ordered to pay a special assessment fine of \$100. BOUTROS was sentenced based on his December 2, 2014, guilty plea to five counts of Title 42 U.S.C., Section 1383a(a)(3) - Social Security Fraud.



On May 8, 2014, Killda BOUTROS appeared in U.S. District Court, District of Oregon for sentencing. BOUTROS was sentenced to 4 months incarceration, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to make restitution of \$79,210.26 to the Social Security Administration, and \$63,126.84 to the Oregon Department of Human Services. BOUTROS was also ordered to pay a special assessment fine of \$100. BOUTROS was sentenced based on her November 14, 2013, guilty plea to five counts of Title 42 U.S.C., Section 1383a(a)(3) - Social Security Fraud.

May 14th, 2014 KATE WILLSON | News Stories

A Fortune Felled

A decade of deception against a local Timber heir is the largest “sweetheart” scam investigators say they’ve seen.



Left: Rachel Lee; Right: Porsha Lee

Ralph Raines, Jr., led a fantasy life.

At 66, the heir to a third-generation Washington County logging company had once faced the prospect of a lonely existence. He was without close family and, as prosecutors now say, he was a bit socially awkward.

But he had found a beautiful young wife—or she had seemed to find him, actually. Mary Marks was thin and blond and preferred heavy makeup. She had presented Raines with a baby boy she said was their son, a child who sat on his lap and called him “Daddy.”

What’s more, a devoted caregiver named Rachel Lee, who had looked after Raines’ father, was now helping Raines handle the millions of dollars that came from the family’s timber company.

Raines’ life had gone on like this for nearly a decade—until March, when police told him the life around him was a hoax.



SSFWG Trainings

- Department of Education
- Housing and Urban Development
- Internal Revenue Service
- Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigation
- Financial Crimes and Digital Evidence



Getting Started in your Area:

- Partner with the OIG Field Office
- Identify the known agents
- Collaborate with agencies that have a similar mission (e.g., food stamps, Medicaid, public housing)
- Offer free training
- Educate, internally and externally





Examples of Outreach:

- Know your DMs and provide training for the Field Offices
- Attend other social service agency trainings
- Provide SSA awareness within other state and federal agencies
- Know your local prosecutors





SSFWG Motto:

- **Detect**
- **Disrupt**
- **Deter**
- **Defend**



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<http://oig.ssa.gov/>

www.youtube.com/user/TheSSAOIG

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Q & A



QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

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