GET INVOLVED, GET SAFE
Prevent Financial Abuse

Millions of older Americans are financially abused every year. This can result in making it hard to pay your bills, buy food, or visit a doctor, and can make you feel betrayed, angry, and even ashamed. But financial abuse is not your fault. There are ways you can protect yourself and find help.

Tips to Protect Yourself

- **Check your financial statements often**
- **Ask your bank about signing up for bank account alerts**
- **Store financial materials in a locked drawer**
- **Visit FTC.gov to learn how to get a free annual credit report**

Sometimes it is hard to recognize financial abuse, but here are some ways it can happen:

- **Taking** your money, credit card, or property without permission
- **Forging** a signature on a check or property title
- **Lying** to you about why someone needs money
- **Misusing** a power of attorney to benefit someone other than yourself
- **Pressuring** you to change your will
Plan for an Emergency to Stay Financially Safe

Talk to your family about your financial wishes so they know what you want and what their role will be in an emergency.

Consult with an attorney or someone you trust to help you prepare legal documents such as a power of attorney and a will.

Keep a list of where important documents and valuables are kept, and provide it to someone you trust so they know where to find them in an emergency.

Ask your bank or financial advisor about a “trusted contact authorization form” that allows the bank to contact someone you have identified in an emergency.

Find Help & Report Financial Abuse

If you feel you have been financially abused, report it immediately. If this is urgent, call 9-1-1. Find your local adult protective services (APS) agency through the Eldercare Locator or by calling 1-800-677-1116.

Visit the Elder Justice Website elderjustice.gov