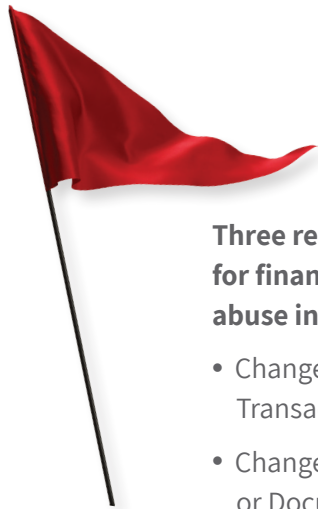


Defining Financial Elder Abuse

Financial elder abuse or exploitation refers to any crime where an older person is taken advantage of financially through theft, fraud, or misuse of credit or assets.

Financial abuse is the primary issue identified in **22% of all reported** elder abuse-related crimes in Wisconsin (Source: Wisconsin's Annual Elder Abuse and Neglect Report 2021).



Three red flag identifiers for financial elder abuse include:

- Changes in Checking and Transaction Patterns
- Changes to Accounts and or Documentation
- Changes in Appearance or Demeanor

If you spot it, report it. Call the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline toll free at **1-833-586-0107** or visit ReportElderAbuseWI.org.

REPORT FINANCIAL ELDER ABUSE!

If you see the signs of Financial Elder Abuse with someone you know or love, **REPORT IT!**

RESPECT YOUR ELDER
REPORT ABUSE

Call the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline

1-833-586-0107

or visit ReportElderAbuseWI.org

This product was supported by grant number 2020-V3-GX-0006, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Your Guide to Protecting Yourself and Others from Financial Elder Abuse



Learn the signs to prevent financial elder abuse or exploitation

RESPECT YOUR ELDER
REPORT ABUSE

Call the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline

1-833-586-0107

or visit ReportElderAbuseWI.org





Changes in Checking and Transaction Patterns

Identifying normal checking and transaction patterns is key to identifying elder financial abuse.

“Out-of-sync” check numbers, bounced checks and overdraft fees, large withdrawals, increased account usage, and unexplained disappearances of funds/assets all point to a potential case of financial fraud.

Watch for large transfers being made to third parties or elder caregivers getting paid too much or too often. Unfortunately, people close to seniors are often the perpetrators of financial elder abuse.

Changes to accounts and/or documentation

Have you noticed recent changes to the accounts or documentation of a vulnerable loved one, with the person having no knowledge of how or why this happened?

Vulnerable adults are often unaware of the fact that they are being taken advantage of financially. **A third party may engage in fraudulent activities** like transferring assets, particularly real estate property, or forging the adult’s signature on financial transactions or titles for their possessions. Be sure to keep an eye out for recent changes or additions of authorized signers on the senior’s bank account or institution signature card.

Changes in appearance or demeanor

Significant changes to appearance and demeanor can indicate that elder abuse is taking place.

Does the elder have a companion who seems to be “calling the shots?” This person may be taking advantage of them by getting too close with the intention of accessing their finances.

Changes in a senior’s physical and mental state, including being disheveled, forgetful, or confused can all signal that something may be wrong. Red flags can also include the elder being excited about winning a sweepstakes or lottery, as well as them telling you that they are providing financial information or documents to people or agencies you don’t know.

