



Protect against financial elder abuse

Elder abuse can be defined as a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.¹ Financial abuse is one of the most common forms of elder abuse in Canada.

Protect yourself from financial abuse:

- Keep your personal and financial information (PIN, passwords etc.) safe, do not share this information
- Lend money only if you want to, and have a signed document for repayment or if you don't expect it back
- Set up automatic payments for bills and deposits into your bank account; review your financial records for anything unusual
- Understand all documents before you sign them
- Speak with your financial representative and add a Trusted Contact Person to your file
- Have an enduring or continuing power of attorney appointing someone you trust to look after you and your finances
- Stay connected with family, friends and your community

Recognize some of the warning signs of financial abuse:

- Lack of food, unpaid bills or eviction notices piling up in the home
- Confusion about financial situation, signing of legal documents
- Withdrawals or bank transfers or disappearance of belongings or property that cannot be explained
- Suspicious signatures on cheques or other documents
- The person managing the senior's financial affair is evasive or uncooperative
- Sudden changes in a will or power of attorney
- High risk portfolios or investments that do not reflect the risk profile of the older investor

¹ World Health Organization definition

Where there's one form of abuse, there may also be other forms of abuse. If you suspect elder abuse, call:

Your local police

Crime Stoppers

1-800-222-8477

**Director, Ministry of Health
and Long-term Care**

(if the person lives in a long-term
care facility/nursing home)

1-866-434-0144

Seniors Safety Line

1-866-299-1011

JusticeNet

1-866-919-3219

Assaulted Women's Helpline

1-866-863-0511

Legal Aid Ontario

1-800-668-8258

**Registrar, Retirement Homes
Regulatory Authority**

(if the person lives in a retirement
home)

1-855-275-7472

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

1-888-495-8501

**Office of the Public Guardian
and Trustee**

1-800-366-0335

Learn more at [GetSmarterAboutMoney.ca](https://www.getsmarteraboutmoney.ca)

Ontario Securities Commission

20 Queen St. W., 22nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3S8

Tel: 1-877-785-1555 Email: inquiries@osc.gov.on.ca



ONTARIO
SECURITIES
COMMISSION



Get
Smarter
About
Money.ca

