



A JOINT PROJECT OF . . .

The Minnesota Bankers Association and the **Hennepin County Attorney's Office**, and the **Hennepin County Adult Protection Services**
In cooperation with the Minnesota County Attorneys Association

A brochure for seniors and their families



Financial exploitation occurs when someone makes unauthorized or fraudulent use of your money or other assets. The perpetrator can be a stranger, a neighbor, a caregiver, or a family member.

Financial exploitation is one of the most common types of senior abuse, but it often doesn't get reported to authorities.

Here are some simple steps you can take to protect your money and yourself.

BE ALERT

- Monitor your financial accounts and immediately report any unusual transactions to your bank.
- Never give out personal or financial information unless you're absolutely sure who's getting it and how it will be used.
- Don't sign any document without first carefully reading it. You may also want to ask someone else you trust to review it.
- Beware of anyone, whether a stranger or someone you know, who solicits money from you for a special deal or investment that promises unrealistic returns. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Sign your own checks. Don't sign a blank check and then allow another person to complete it, unless someone else you trust can witness it for you.
- Add another person's name to your bank or insurance documents only when necessary and only after seeking legal advice. Be cautious about surrendering control of your finances.
- Before agreeing to withdraw any large amount of money, seek trusted financial or legal advice. Any major transaction should have a written agreement that can be reviewed by trustworthy professionals.
- Make a will and carefully consider all revisions before signing it.
- Stay active and maintain regular social contacts outside your home. Social isolation increases your risk of being victimized.
- Get to know your banker and establish a good relationship with the professionals who handle your money. They can watch out for any changes in your finances that may signal a problem.

GET HELP...

- If you suspect that you, or someone you know, may be a victim of financial exploitation, immediately contact your local police, your county's adult protection agency, or the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center at 844-880-1574.