

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](https://www.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



GET INVOLVED, GET SAFE

Prevent Financial Abuse

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.



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.



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



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

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Elder Justice
INITIATIVE

