

Financial exploitation of older adults or adults with disabilities is very common. It means that a caretaker, family member, or person with an ongoing relationship with the vulnerable adult has used or attempted to use the adult's financial resources. This includes using an adult's assets without informed consent, under false pretenses, or through intimidation or manipulation. It can include the loss of property, money, income, or benefits or the misuse of the vulnerable adult's identity to open credit accounts or to access existing accounts. These losses can have long-lasting consequences.



Help stop financial exploitation.

You can make a difference by recognizing and reporting financial exploitation. If you suspect a person age 65 or older or age 18–64 with disabilities is being financially exploited, call the Texas Abuse Hotline at **800-252-5400**, or report it online at **TxAbuseHotline.org**.

For more information on abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation, visit **ProtectTexasAdults.org**.



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Do you know someone who is being financially exploited?

Adult Protective Services can help vulnerable adults age 65 and older and adults age 18 to 64 who have a disability.



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Adult Protective Services

Signs of Financial Exploitation

Banking Red Flags

- Unpaid bills or unusual bank account activity, including small or large withdrawals.
- Names added to a bank account or signature card.
- Frequent checks made out to cash.
- Requesting an ATM card or withdrawing money with an ATM card when this has never been done before.
- Missing belongings or checks.
- Money being moved from one account to another, especially if the client has not done so in the past.
- Sudden electronic access to bank accounts, when the client is not computer savvy or may not even have access to a computer.
- A client being brought into a bank to make changes to his or her account such as adding a family member who has suddenly inserted him or herself into the client's life, or a non-family member bringing the client to the bank to open, close, or transfer funds for no apparent reason.



Documentation Red Flags

- A client naming a new power of attorney, especially if this person has recently inserted him or herself into the client's life.
- Transfer of property from the client to someone else, instead of leaving the property to transfer on death.
- Forged documents.
- Abuse of powers of attorney.
- A client signing documents such as wills or loans but seems incapable of understanding them.
- Changing names on a will, bank account, life insurance policy, or house title to someone who has recently shown interest in the client or has recently inserted him or herself into the client's life.

Relative or Caregiver Red Flags

- Family members suddenly claiming rights to a person's affairs and property.
- Family members who want access or feel entitled to the client's assets prior to the client's death.
- Caretakers or family members who are more concerned about a client's assets than the client's health or ability to meet his or her financial needs for life.
- A caregiver receiving frequent gifts.

How to Protect Yourself From Financial Exploitation

- Don't sign blank checks allowing another person to fill in the amount.
- Check your financial statements often and review for withdrawals you did not approve.
- Don't sign any document you have not completely read or don't fully understand.
- Don't be pressured by family members, friends, caregivers, or anyone to make any financial changes/decisions that you don't want to make.

