



**FINANCIAL  
EXPLOITATION  
CAN HAPPEN TO  
ANYONE AT  
ANYTIME. DON'T  
BE ASHAMED OR  
AFRAID TO  
REPORT IT!**

**Things you can do to  
keep yourself safe:**

- Don't panic
- Don't share or give out any information
- Don't verify any information
- Hang up the phone when it's an unknown caller
- Know it's never your fault
- Know you can fight back
- Report it



**Call for help now!**

**1-800-223-9074**

This program is funded through the Delaware Criminal Justice Council by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime.



**ADULT  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES**

**1-800-223-9074**



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

## What is Financial Exploitation?

Financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of another individual's assets or funds for personal use.

## How Does Financial Exploitation Occur?

A vulnerable adult can be exploited in many ways:

- Deception/Too Confused to Give Consent
- False Pretenses/Trickery
- Coercion/Harassment
- Duress/Stress
- Threats/Intimidation
- Not Keeping Track or Know Your Monthly Bills or Income

## Who are Some of the People who Commit Exploitation?

- Strangers
- Family members
- Caretakers
- Neighbors
- Friends/Acquaintances
- Attorneys
- Doctors/Nurses
- Religious Leaders
- Bank Employees
- ...Anyone

## How Does Financial Exploitation Happen?

Financial exploitation happens in many ways that seem normal such as:

- Scams - Phone Calls, Lottery, IRS, Charities, Telemarketers, Sweepstakes Fraud
- Bank/Check Fraud/Forging Signature/Unexpected Transfer of Funds
- Mail/Email
- Misuse of Debit or Credit Card
- Misuse/Abuse of Power of Attorney
- Withholding Individual Funds or Misusing Funds
- Real Estate/Mortgages/Reverse Mortgages
- Home Improvement

## What Can You Do To Stop Exploitation Happen?

Tell someone. Ask questions. Get educated. Get help by calling us if you find yourself in a financial exploitation situation.



If you believe that you are being exploited - CALL

If someone you know is being exploited - CALL

The Adult Protective Services Advocate does not cost anything.



### Assisting you with:

Resources and Education  
Law Enforcement Agencies  
Criminal Justice and Court Processes  
Referrals for Legal & Medical Services  
Safety Planning

## Call Us for Help

Adult Protective Services  
Toll Free 1-800-223-9074  
24 hours a day

Throughout the state of Delaware