CAFEE
Oklahoma County Coalition Against Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

elder abuse
FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION
financial exploitation is the improper use of a vulnerable adult's financial, real or personal resources for the benefit of another person through the use of undue influence, coercion, harassment, duress, deception, false representation or false pretense. Theft, fraud, forgery, extortion and wrongful use of a power of attorney are examples of financial exploitation.

And financial exploitation doesn’t just involve monetary assets. Victims have lost furniture, jewelry, family heirlooms, stock certificates and prescription drugs. The names of vulnerable adults are also often as good as cash. Victims have been coerced into co-signing for home or auto loans or even signing over their own property. Perpetrators have used identity theft to get credit cards, cell phones and even gym memberships.

financial exploitation is a crime! And it robs its victims of more than their assets – it takes away their sense of safety, peace of mind and dignity. Many victims are afraid to report exploitation because of retribution from the abuser, fear of being seen as out of touch or they are ashamed that they were victimized. Victims who are mentally impaired may not be able to report abuse or describe the details.
signs of financial exploitation

• Frequent expensive gifts from the vulnerable adult to caregiver
• Vulnerable adult’s personal belongings, papers, credit cards missing
• Numerous unpaid bills
• A power of attorney or will when vulnerable adult seems incapable of writing a will
• Signing over deeds to property
• Caregiver’s name added to bank account
• Vulnerable adult is unaware of monthly income
• Vulnerable adult signs on a loan
• Frequent checks made out to cash
• Unusual activity in bank account
• Irregularities on tax return
• Vulnerable adult unaware of reason for appointment with banker or attorney
• Caregiver’s refusal to spend money on vulnerable adult
• Signatures on checks or legal documents that do not resemble vulnerable adult’s signature
• New acquaintances expressing gushy, undying affection or calling them Mom or Dad
• Conflicting accounts of an incident, expenditure or financial need
CAFEE is a diverse coalition of representatives from state, county and local law enforcement, the courts, social services, non-profits and the financial and insurance industries.

CAFEE member organizations are dedicated to protecting Oklahoma County’s most vulnerable citizens while respecting their rights as adults.

CAFEE membership includes DHS Adult Protective Services, Areawide Aging Agency, Office of Long–Term Care Ombudsman, Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office, BancFirst, Bethany Police Department, Edmond Police Department, Life Senior Services, Midwest City Police Department, Oklahoma County District Attorney’s Office, Oklahoma County Sherriff’s Office, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Bankers Association, Oklahoma Insurance Department, Piedmont Police Department, Senior Law Resource Center and the U.S. Postal Inspector Service.

If you believe an older person is being abused, complete and submit a report online at https://apspublic.okdhs.org or contact your local DHS office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For nights, weekends and holidays, call the statewide Abuse Hotline at 1-800-522-3511.