



## Key Warning Signs Identify Elder Financial Abuse

It should be our mission as a community to enhance the quality of life for the Elders by improving physical, emotional, and spiritual health and to preserve the dignity and respect to the elders in our communities.

One of the main problems we see in our communities is the act of financial abuse. This occurs when a person or persons take advantage of an elderly person financially. Stealing money, lying about how much the elder needs for certain care, or cashing the elder's checks without permission are all examples of financial abuse.

There are indicators that financial abuse may be occurring:

- Withholding money from the elder
- Cashing checks without permission of the elder
- Personal belongings begin to disappear
- Misuse of Power of Attorney
- Not providing services that are needed
- Unusual items charged on a credit card

There are also possible warning signs that are identifiable from the Elder and from the abuser. Warning signs from the Elder may be:

- Report of financial abuse
- Requests to transfer assets or funds
- Changes in a will or request for Power of Attorney
- They have money that goes missing without any explanation
- Inability to pay bills
- Inability to buy clothes, food, and other necessities
- The elder withdraws a significant amount of money in a short period of time

Warning signs from the abuser may be:

- They frequently or suddenly have money
- Family members appearing unexpectedly to claim the elder's money
- They insist on having their names included on most or all of the elder's accounts
- Forgery of the elder's signature on accounts

If you or anyone you know may be experiencing elder abuse, domestic abuse, sexual abuse, stalking, or general crimes, please contact the DOVE Program at 1-800-763-8629 or contact the 24 Hour Crisis Line at 1-877-830-DOVE(3683).