

# Red Flags and Warning Signs of Financial Elder Abuse

Elder abuse prevention experts have identified a number of red flags and warning signs of financial elder abuse. Educating oneself and communities about these warning signs is one step that we can take to prevent financial elder abuse.

*Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario has identified several red flags and warning signs of financial elder abuse, including:*

- ▶ Unexplained disappearance of personal belongings, such as clothes or jewelry
- ▶ Withholding funds
- ▶ Trusted individuals (e.g., a family, caregiver) “living off” the older adults
- ▶ Unduly pressuring an older adult to:
  - Move from, sell, or relinquish their home or other personal property
  - Sign legal documents that they do not fully understand
  - Give money to relatives or caregivers
- ▶ Misuse of Power of Attorney
- ▶ Power of Attorney refuses to consider moving an older adult to a long-term care home in order to gain or retain access to their finances
- ▶ Unexplained withdrawal of money from bank account or ATM withdrawals
- ▶ Suspicious or forged signatures on cheques or other documents
- ▶ Large sums of money go missing from the older adult’s bank account
- ▶ Denial to access or control finances such as credit cards, cheques
- ▶ Standard of living not in keeping with the senior’s income or assets
- ▶ Isolation from friends
- ▶ Unexpected sale of the older adults’ home