

# Don't Let Abuse Hide Behind Help

## Caretaker Exploitation

Caretaker exploitation occurs when a caregiver, aide, or trusted individual abuses their position to take money, property, or benefits from an older adult. This may include stealing cash, misusing credit cards, or coercing changes to financial accounts. The exploitation often happens gradually and may go unnoticed for long periods. Victims may feel dependent on or afraid of the caregiver.

### RED FLAGS

- Unexplained withdrawals, missing money, or sudden changes in finances.
- Caregivers discouraging contact with family or friends.
- Pressure to sign documents or give access to accounts.

### AVOID EXPLOITATION

- Regularly review financial statements and legal documents.
- Maintain open communication with trusted family members.
- Report concerns to Adult Protective Services or a trusted authority.

## Property Exploitation

Property exploitation involves manipulating or pressuring an older adult to transfer ownership of property, vehicles, or valuables. This may occur through deception, intimidation,

or misuse of Power of Attorney. Victims may not realize their property rights have been compromised until it is too late. These scams often involve someone already known to the victim.

### RED FLAGS

- Sudden changes to deeds, titles, or wills.
- Pressure to sign legal documents without independent advice.
- Promises of care or support in exchange for property.

### AVOID EXPLOITATION

- Consult an attorney or trusted advisor before signing legal documents.
- Do not grant Power of Attorney without understanding its scope.
- Keep copies of important documents and review them regularly.

## Where to Report a Suspected Scam

- Elder abuse and exploitation (Adult Protective Services): [1-800-677-1116](tel:1-800-677-1116)
- General fraud (FTC): [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)
- National Elder Fraud Hotline: [833-FRAUD-11 \(833-372-8311\)](tel:833-FRAUD-11)



- FL Office of Inspector General: [legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen\\_Services](http://legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services) 1-866-9-NO-SCAM
- U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General: [oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud](http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud) 1-800-447-8477

