



Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups

Financial Empowerment – Personal Advocacy – Victim Rights

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide membership organization that was founded in 1978.

“Advocating for all Generations”

**How do you know if you or an older adult you know is being financially exploited?
Ask yourself the following questions and look for the warning signs listed below.**

Have there been changes in the individual’s money management?

- Changes in account balances, spending habits
- Unusual account activity, opening or closing accounts
- Missed bill payments, disconnected utilities

With whom does the individual associate?

- People with unusual behavior
- People who appear to control the individual’s actions
- People who exhibit an odd or extreme level of care, concern, or knowledge about the individual
- People who actively try to isolate the individual

Have there been any changes in legal documents, including real estate transfers?

- Newly executed documents
- Recent or repeated revocations or codicils
- Forged signatures
- Altered documents
- Pre-signed checks/withdrawal slips or stamped-signature checks/withdrawal slips
- Transfers made that the individual does not understand

Does the individual’s behavior seem different?

- Watch for indications of fear, shame, or humiliation
- Hesitation to talk or seek help
- Timid or confused, changes his or her mind frequently
- Rapid deterioration in health condition
- Untreated medical conditions

Are there indications of other types of abuse?

- Missing property
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect or self-neglect

If you believe someone you know is being financially exploited, do not hesitate to call the Elder Financial Empowerment Project at the numbers listed below. You can also call your local police, your county’s elder adult at risk agency, or 911 if the situation is dangerous. You may also complete an online confidential form on our website at: <http://www.cwagwisconsin.org/contact>