# How to Protect Yourself from Becoming a Victim

How to Report Suspected Abuse

* Don’t sign blank checks allowing

another person to fill in the amount.

* Don’t leave money or valuables in plain view.
* Be aware of scams (either by phone or through the mail). If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
* Don’t give strangers access

to your bank accounts.

* Check your financial statements frequently and carefully for unauthorized withdrawals.
* Don’t sign any document you have not completely read or fully understood.
* Don’t be pressured by family members, friends, caregivers, or anyone else to do anything you don’t want to do.
* Don’t sign over property deeds, titles, etc. without legal review.

If you suspect a person who is vulnerable, elderly, or disabled is being financially exploited, call the Kansas Department for Children and Families

Abuse and Neglect hotline.

Kansas Protection Report Center

1-800-922-5330

Law Enforcement is notified when a suspected crime has been committed.

Financial Exploitation

If it’s not your money, taking it is a crime.

Kansas Department for Children and Families Adult Protective Services

[www.dcf.ks.gov](https://dcfauth.dcf.ks.gov/)

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# What is Financial Exploitation? Who Might be an Abuser? Potential Signs of Financial

Financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of another person’s money or property for personal profit or gain. Financial exploitation of adults who are vulnerable, elderly or disabled

is an increasing problem and protecting them from becoming victims **is everyone’s business**.

# Examples of Financial Exploitation

* **cashing checks** without authorization or permission
* **misusing** or **stealing** a person’s

money or possessions

* **coercing or deceiving** a person into signing

documents such as a contract or will

* **improper use** of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney


## family members

* **caregivers** - paid or volunteer
* **strangers** - met in public or those who come to the home
* **professionals** hired by or appointed for the victim, such as accountants or lawyers

## guardians

* **agents** with durable power of attorney or anyone you authorize to act on your behalf

# Potential Signs of Financial Exploitation

* changing **account beneficiaries**
* sudden **unexplained changes** in bank

accounts or banking practices

* **unexplained withdrawal** of money by a person accompanying the account holder
* adding **additional names** to bank

accounts or signature cards

## unapproved withdrawal of

funds using an ATM card

* **new applications** for credit cards or banking cards
* **out of sequence** check numbers
* **redirected mail**

# Exploitation Continued

* sudden **changes in a will**, property title, deeds or other financial documents
* unexplained **missing funds** or valuables
* providing **substandard care**
* **unpaid bills** despite having enough money
* **forged signature** for financial transaction or for the titles of the property
* appearance of **uninvolved relatives** suddenly becoming the person’s representative
* unexplained **sudden transfer** of assets
* providing **unnecessary services**
* a **complaint** of financial exploitation