How Can I Get Help?

If you have been a victim of financial abuse or suspect that someone else has and want to talk confidentially to someone about it, a caseworker can meet with you and help you take steps to alleviate the situation.

Adult Protective Services are provided through local community agencies. Calls may be made directly to the provider agency near you.

- For local information visit: **http://www.illinois.gov/aging/ProtectionAdvocacy/Documents/APS_Provider%20List%20Web_1.20.15.pdf** on the Web.

You may also call the:

- Department on Aging
  Adult Protective Services Hotline: 1-866-800-1409
  1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

Confidential

All reports are kept confidential and anonymous reports are accepted.

This project was supported by Grant # 2002-VA-GX-0017, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, or the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Illinois Department on Aging
One Natural Resources Way, #100
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

Adult Protective Services Hotline:
1-866-800-1409, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

Download this brochure at **www.illinois.gov/aging** in the "News and Publications" section.

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY).

Printed by Authority State of Illinois
(Rev. 5/15 - 3M IOCI 15-815)

State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging

Be a Savvy Senior

© Elder Financial Protection Network

Don't Be Fooled...

One in four Seniors will be a victim of a financial crime. Financial abuse is the unauthorized or illegal use of an adult's funds, property or resources by a family member, friend or stranger, which causes a loss of money or property.

All Seniors are at risk because they can find themselves in situations or relationships that leave them open to financial abuse. And the amount does not have to be large to be a substantial loss and to be considered financial abuse.

This type of abuse may be anything from stealing small amounts of cash to persuading a person to sign over a house or sign for a loan against their wishes.

...About Financial Abuse

Signs of Financial Abuse

Have you let someone else use your ATM card or credit card?

▶ Use good financial practices, do not allow anyone to use your ATM card or your credit card – cancel the card if you don't use it.

Has someone convinced you to sign a blank check for someone else to cash?

▶ Fill out your own checks — DO NOT sign blank checks.

Has someone stolen your social security or pension check from you?

▶ Use direct deposit.

Do you have money and other valuables laying around in the open?

▶ Do not leave money or financial documents in plain view.

Has someone forced you to sign a check or other document against your will in exchange for care?

▶ Do not sign over money or property in return for care without having the agreement reviewed by an attorney.

Have you given written permission for someone to make financial decisions for you, and do you know what that means?

▶ If someone is helping you manage your finances, have a trusted third person review your bank statements and put all financial instructions in writing.

Has someone forced you to give them money by threatening you or stolen money from you?

▶ If someone threatens or steals from you, REPORT it.