WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

QUESTION: Does the potential victim have the capacity to provide for his or her daily needs?

STOP: If you believe a crime is in progress or about to be consummated (a senior is about to hand over a large sum of money to a scammer, for example) call 9-1-1 immediately.

STOP: If you are a Mandatory reporter, see reverse of this document for more information.

NO: Call the local Adult Protective Services (APS) office. There is a local APS office in each county’s Department of Social Services (as well as Baltimore City’s). You can find a list of offices at http://dhs.maryland.gov/local-offices/. Alternatively, you can call the statewide number to report: 1-800-332-6347. APS will send out an investigator.

MAYBE: If you are not sure, you may call APS anyway. APS will make the determination. If your call is made in good faith, there is no downside to calling APS.

YES: Use these links below and on the backside of this document to help you and the victim determine where the exploitation should be reported.

- National Elder Fraud Hotline
  833–FRAUD–11
  or 833–372–8311
  Every day, 6:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m. EST

- Internet or Telephone-Based Scam
  Perpetrators of these scams could be anywhere in the world. Helpful tips can be found under Consumer Issues section at www.USA.gov

- Mail Sweepstakes or Other Scam by Mail
  U.S. Postal Inspection Service

- Identity Theft
  Maryland Office of the Attorney General’s Identity Theft Unit

- Tax Return Fraud
  Maryland Tax Return
  Maryland Comptroller
  Federal Tax Return
  Internal Revenue Service

- Scams Perpetrated by Acquaintances or “Friends”
  If the individual does not believe and cannot be convinced they are being exploited, contacting the local police or hiring a private attorney or investigator may be the best route

- Home Improvement Scams
  Maryland Home Improvement Commission

- Inappropriate Insurance Products
  Maryland Insurance Administration

- Unfair Business Practice
  (Business Operating in Maryland)
  Maryland Office of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division

- Fraudulent Investment Sales
  Maryland Securities Division

Courtesy of Project S.A.F.E. aging.maryland.gov/Pages/elder-financial-exploitation.aspx
WHAT IS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF A VULNERABLE ADULT OR ELDER?

Financial exploitation means any action which involves the misuse of a person’s funds or property. Many people have been financially exploited by people they knew – paid caregivers, neighbors, even relatives. More people are exploited by people they know than by con artists who are strangers. Examples of financial exploitation include:

- Forging signatures on checks, withdrawal slips, or other financial documents
- Making unauthorized withdrawals from financial accounts
- Coercing or threatening someone into giving away money
- Trickling someone with a memory impairment into turning over money
- Charging excessive fees for rent or caregiver services
- Committing person-to-person, mail, or telephone fraud scams

MANDATORY REPORTERS

If you are a health care professional, social worker, police officer, or an employee of a health care facility or financial institution, you are a mandatory reporter of suspected exploitation of elders or vulnerable adults. Report in accordance with your professional obligations. If you are unsure to whom you must report suspected exploitation, ask your supervisor.

More Information

- Adult Protective Services 1-800-332-6347
  http://dhs.maryland.gov/local-offices/
- Maryland Comptroller 1-800-638-2937
  taxes.marylandtaxes.gov/Individual_Taxes/Taxpayer_Assistance/Identity_Protection
- Internal Revenue Service 1-800-829-1040
- Maryland Attorney General’s Identity Theft Unit 410-576-6491
  www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/IdentityTheft/
- U.S. Postal Inspection Service 1-877-876-2455
  about.usps.com/publications/pub300a/pub300a_tech_024.htm
- Internet or Telephone-Based Scam 1-844-872-4681
  www.usa.gov/stop-scams-frauds
- Maryland Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division 410-528-8662
  www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/CPD/Complaint.aspx
- Maryland Insurance Administration 410-468-2340 or 1-800-492-6116
  insurance.maryland.gov/consumer/pages/fileacomplaint.aspx
- Maryland Home Improvement Commission 410-230-6309
  www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic/mhiccomp.shtml
- Maryland Securities Division 410-576-6360
  www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/Securities/default.aspx
- National Elder Fraud Hotline 833–FRAUD–11
  https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/stop-elder-fraud/providing-help-restoring-hope

Courtesy of Project S.A.F.E. aging.maryland.gov/Pages/elder-financial-exploitation.aspx