



Elder Financial Abuse

Know the warning signs to help prevent this from happening to you or a loved one!

Sadly the cases of elderly financial abuse are on the rise, as the senior population are an easy target for fraudsters in large part due to their routine incomes (such as social security or pensions) as well as their sense of vulnerability. Here at the credit union, we some times run into cases where we feel our member may not fully realize the financial impact of a situation. Our staff is trained to watch for warning signs and red flags of elderly financial abuse and you too can be on the lookout for suspicious behaviors. If at any time you have concerns for yourself, a family member or friend, do not hesitate to give us a call or sit down with one of our Resource Advisors. Listed below are some of the common signs and red flags to watch for:

- ◆ Accompanied by a stranger or someone new
- ◆ Withdraws large amounts of cash
- ◆ Coerced into making transactions
- ◆ Is not allowed to speak for themselves or make decisions
- ◆ Unable to remember financial transaction(s)
- ◆ Is concerned or confused about “missing funds”
- ◆ Is nervous or afraid of the person with them
- ◆ Appears to be receiving insufficient care given their financial status
- ◆ Change in usual patterns of withdrawals
- ◆ Frequent withdrawals from ATM
- ◆ Large withdrawals from previously inactive accounts
- ◆ Significant increases in monthly expenses paid
- ◆ Sudden increase in debt (credit card transactions, bank loans or second mortgage)
- ◆ Senior signature appears to be forged
- ◆ Checks and withdrawal slips appear to be in another person’s handwriting
- ◆ Bank statements and checks no longer sent to the senior’s home
- ◆ Power of Attorney executed by senior that seems to be confused
- ◆ Excitement about winning a sweepstakes or lottery
- ◆ Acknowledges providing personal information to a solicitor via the phone or email

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Elder Financial Abuse *continued*

There are also number of adult protective service agencies and other resources available to help.

- ⇒ Georgia Dept. of Human Resources Division of Aging Services 1-866-55AGING (1-866-552-4464), or online at <https://aging.georgia.gov/report-elder-abuse>
- ⇒ Georgia Adult Protective Services 1-888-774-0152
- ⇒ Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Protection at 404-651-8600

Check out these online resources which also provide more information on how you can better protect your personal information and your assets.

- ⇒ National Center on Elder Abuse, <https://ncea.acl.gov>
- ⇒ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
www.consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/resources-for-older-adults/protecting-against-fraud/
- ⇒ AARP Consumer Protection, www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/
- ⇒ Federal Trade Commission—Phone Scams, www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams

It is important to remember that most perpetrators and/or scammers will initially appear very friendly and claim to be looking out for your best interest. They may claim to work for a company you recognize and maybe even trust. If you receive an unsolicited phone call or visit, just tell them you're not interested and end the call/visit promptly. Never give out any personal data, account numbers or user names and passwords. When in doubt, you can contact one of the consumer protection agencies listed above or contact us here at the credit union.

Many scams will target your sense of goodwill and charity, such as donating to a recent natural disaster. Or, they may offer you a prize or something too good to be true — a free vacation, foreign lottery winnings, free trial offers and even extended car warranties that have no value. Many of these attempts are to gather your account, credit card and/or social security numbers. Almost all offers that require you to make a down payment or security deposit of some sort are scams.

If you haven't already, be sure to register your landline and your mobile phone number with the National Do Not Call Registry at <https://donotcall.gov> or by calling 1-888-382-1222. Registration is free and does not expire.

On the next page is an example of a real scam that one of our members recently received this summer. Always double check before committing to something you are unsure of. Ask a trusted family member or friend, local law enforcement or your financial institution.

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Example of an actual letter and check one of our members received. This was indeed a scam and our Member Resource Advisor counseled the member before cashing the check and authorities were notified.

Dear Prospective Car Wrap Advertiser

Enclosed with this Note is a Check for \$1998, Please go and get It deposited, and send a Copy of the Deposit Slip to *** [redacted]@gmail.com *** The Funds will be Available to you for Withdrawal Within the Next 24 Hours. You will Deduct \$250 Being Your 1st Week Wage, the Rest Of the Fund Is the Payment to Cover the Decal expenses(i.e To wrap your Car with the Dr Pepper Ad) as Discussed. You will be Updated with the Decal Specialist Information & Arrangement can be Made for them to come Install the Wrap @ your Place.

Actual letter our member received



Will be waiting to Read from You Soon.

Please Don't forget to Email [redacted]@gmail.com Soon as The check is Received and Deposited.

Regards,

[redacted]

Fake check with a legitimate financial institution name



VOID IF COLORED BACKGROUND IS MISSING. A TRUE WATERMARK DIAMOND WEAVE PATTERN WHEN HELD TO THE LIGHT. VERIFY AUTHENTICITY BY RUBBING RED "LS" LOGO BELOW.

Resource One
CREDIT UNION
Member owned. Not-for-profit.

P.O. Box 660077
Dallas, TX 75266-0077

000694056
88-9051
3119

DATE	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
7 - 23 - 18	000694056	*****1,998.00

PAY THE SUM OF \$1,998dols00cts

TO THE ORDER OF [redacted]

VOID AFTER 90 DAYS

Southwest Corporate FCU
Farmers Branch Texas 75234

Jim Bisending
PRESIDENT
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

Rub Here
LS
Disappears

⑈000694056⑈ ⑆31199051⑆ ⑆6??3000006056⑆