

ELDER ABUSE: FINANCIAL ABUSE

What is financial abuse?

Financial abuse occurs when a trusted individual takes away someone's access to their own money, manipulates their financial decisions, or uses their money or assets without their consent.

Financial abuse is the second most reported type of elder abuse in Queensland.

Signs of financial abuse

- Inability to pay bills
- Stockpiling of unpaid bills
- Unexplained disappearances of belongings
- Disparity between money and living conditions
- Significant bank withdrawals and/or changes to will
- Strapped for cash, especially for essential items like food, clothing, medication, and utilities

Behaviours of financial abuse

- Misusing powers of attorney
- Unauthorised use of money or bank cards
- Recent addition of a signature on a bank account
- Threatening or coercing in regards to assets or wills
- Stealing items like jewellery, credit cards, cash, food, or medication
- Denying or controlling someone's access to their own money or bank accounts

What to do if you or a loved one are experiencing elder financial abuse

1. Reach out

There is no shame in asking for help. You can ring the **Senior Relationship Services (SRS)** at **1300 062 232**.

2. Organise a confidential discussion

Our qualified, experienced staff can help you explore your concerns in a safe environment.

3. Make a plan

SRS will support you in moving forward, including safety plans, legal advice, counselling, mediation, case management, and external referrals.

4. Check in regularly

Whether it's yourself or a loved one, we all need to continuously make sure someone is okay when they have experienced abuse.



1300 062 232



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