



You Can! Prevent Financial Elder Abuse



June is Elder Abuse Awareness month.

Please join us in spreading awareness to help prevent Financial Exploitation.

- **COVID-19 Scams** - Ignore offers of testing, vaccination kits, treatments, cleaning/protective gear or other product offers and any calls from "government agencies" promising relief money. **Find the latest scam reports on www.ncoa.org/blog/4-coronavirus-scams-to-avoid/**
- **Unsolicited Contact or Amazing Offers** - Be cautious of unknown persons asking for personal or banking information. If the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. Prizes for contests you didn't enter and rules about cashing checks within a short time or paying via gift card or money order are all red flags.
- **Changes in your Bank Activity** - Increased frequency of check use or withdrawals, large cash withdrawals, and changes in ATM activity can be signs of misuse in your financial accounts. **If you're feeling confused or concerned about your accounts or transactions, or find you need more explanations of activities, Minuteman's Money Management program may be able to help. Call 888-222-6171 or email elderinfo@minutemansenior.org for more information.**
- **Third Party Involvement** - If a group or person insists on becoming a co-signer, or wants to handle your financial affairs, take time to consult a professional on best practices first. Many banks offer programs that allow authorized access to your accounts in ways that are safe and able to be tracked.
- **Don't Sign if you Don't Feel Comfortable** - Reading and understanding what you are signing is important. A second (and professional) eye on important documents like Power of Attorney or Living Will is good practice. You have a right to get the details reviewed first.
- **Plan Ahead & Avoid Extreme Agreements** - Take time to research and plan your financial and personal future. Avoid trading property or other assets in return for promises of care without documenting the agreement and having a professional review it.

**Call the Elder Abuse
Hotline at 800-922-2275**

Source: www.massbankers.org & www.ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams

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