

Be Aware!

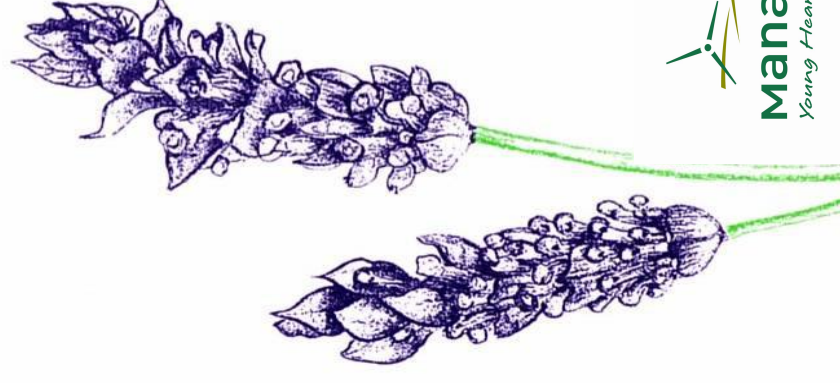
- Carefully consider requests for cash or loans from others, or any suggestions that you change your living arrangements.
- If you do lend money, even if it's to family, get a written agreement or record about it and when it will be paid back. This will avoid any confusions - keep this record safe.
- Don't make decisions under pressure. It's your money, you have the right to say **NO** if you wish.

CAUTION

If you would like to know more about financial abuse, you can contact the Elder Abuse and Neglect Service at

Age Concern Manawatu Inc.

Money Matters for Seniors



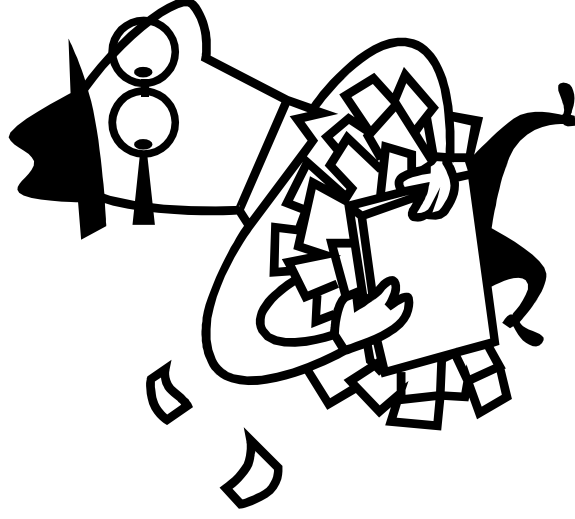
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Financial abuse is one of the largest forms of elder abuse.

Know your choices to stay independent and in control.



By planning ahead you can take practical steps to protect your money, property and independence.

WATCH what you sign:

- Giving powers of attorney
- Co-signing a loan
- Sharing a bank account or real estate
- Buying into a retirement village

BE CAREFUL who you tell:

- Do not give anyone access to your bank account, credit card or PIN numbers
- Avoid giving credit card numbers over the phone

And **BE SURE TO:**

- Keep cash, cheque books, and other valuables out of sight. Avoid keeping cash at home - it is an invitation to theft.
- Keep a record of credit card numbers in case they get misplaced.

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Talk to your bank about:

- free financial services
- financial representatives
- alternative methods of paying bills
- telephone and internet banking
- direct deposits and ATMs

Checklist:

- ❖ Explain your needs carefully and give careful consideration to your choice of attorney(s).
- ❖ Find out about services and support in your community, and consider your future housing needs before a crisis arises.
- ❖ Review your Enduring Power of Attorney, and update your Will regularly, especially following a death or divorce.
- ❖ Set clear financial boundaries and discuss these with family and friends.
- ❖ If you finance a property owned by family or others, seek legal advice to ensure your protection

