

Safety First

Presented by: DON Services

JANUARY 2022

SAFETY COMMITTEE:

- Neal Jones
- Lori Daytner
- Chris Little
- Tinna Miller
- Danielle Marsh
- Patrick McGuire
- Walt Heaney
- Therece Roskey
- Rhonda Pager
- Amy Jones
- Ashley Stevenson
- Amanda McCoy
- Kevin Hue

What Is Elder Financial Abuse?

Elder financial abuse occurs when someone steals money or other things of value from an older person. As people age, they may need the help of others to manage their finances and care for them. This is especially true in cases where someone has Alzheimer's or dementia, as these conditions cause mental functioning to decline.

Unfortunately, elders may put their trust in people who do not have their best interest at heart. Whether it's a relative, friend, or a caregiver, anyone may try to steal an elder's finances in various ways.

Financial abuse can also be emotionally destructive. In some cases, elders have become depressed or anxious after suffering from financial exploitation, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA).

That said, there are ways you can take action against elder financial abuse. For example, you can report cases to Adult Protective Services (APS) or local law enforcement to pursue justice.

If you have any safety questions or concerns:

- Contact your Coordinator immediately with any questions or concerns:

New Castle Office: **724-652-5144**

Donora Office: **724-856-4978**

Penn Hills Office: **724-856-4211**

Greensburg Office: **724-936-3900**

You can reach out to the Safety Committee directly at:
donsafety@donservices.org

Chair of the Safety Committee - Lori Daytner
Secretary—Chris Little

The Safety Committee's Health and Safety Tips

Possible signs of elder financial abuse include:

- Checks or bank statements that go to the perpetrator
- Forgeries on legal documents or checks
- Large bank withdrawals or transfers between accounts
- Missing belongings or property
- Mood changes (such as depression or anxiety)
- New changes to an elder's will or power of attorney
- The elder signed strange documents they didn't understand
- The elderly person does not understand their financial situation
- Unpaid bills and eviction notices
- Utilities being discontinued if bills weren't paid

Unexplained withdrawals that the elderly person could not have made

