

SIGNS A VULNERABLE PERSON IS BEING FINANCIALLY EXPLOITED

- Frequent expensive gifts from victim to a caretaker or “new best friend”
- Drafting a new will or power of attorney when the victim seems incapable of drafting legal documents
- Caretaker’s name (or the name of the victim’s “new best friend”) is added to the bank account
- Frequent checks made out to “cash”
- Unusual activity in bank account
- Sudden changes in spending patterns

WHAT TO DO IF YOU IDENTIFY SOMEONE AT RISK

We all need to vigilantly look for abuse around every corner of our neighborhood and in the care facilities we visit. One problem, though, is that our culture has taught us to avert our eyes, cover our ears and mind our own business.

If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult, **call 911** or your local adult protective services agency. In Washington State, call **866-END-HARM**.

Many families also contact us at Aging Wisdom. We can provide an unbiased look at the situation, facilitate family meetings to discuss concerns and provide information about care options or ways to approach the situation.

We understand the laws concerning elder abuse and can help navigate complicated bureaucracies, act as an advocate for the older person and help develop a safe plan of care. We work hand in hand with adult protective service caseworkers, police departments and elder law attorneys to ensure the safety of the older person and to coordinate appropriate services.

It is human nature to want to put our heads in the sand and change the subject to something more pleasant. But if we identify and report abuse when it occurs, we can stop the cycle and protect our most vulnerable elders.

Are any of these signs familiar? Not sure what to do next? Contact Aging Wisdom and one of our Aging Life Care Professionals™ can provide expert consultation and care management. With an objective perspective on the situation, we facilitate difficult family discussions and decision-making to address these and other concerns.

To meet with an Aging Wisdom *Aging Life Care Professional*, please call **206.456.5155, ext. 400**, or email us at **Inquiries@agingwisdom.com**