

# WHAT IS FINANCIAL ABUSE?

## WHAT IS IT?

It is the misuse of a senior's money, property or other assets by a relative or a person in a position of trust.

## What are Some Examples of Financial Abuse?

- Forcing or tricking a senior into selling his or her property.
- Stealing money or personal possessions.
- Forging a signature.
- Misusing a Power of Attorney.

Financial Abuse is a crime.

You may not want to tell as you feel ashamed, embarrassed, guilty, fearful or protective of the abuser.

## Warning Signs...

- Removing large sums of money or constant sums of money from the bank.
- Inability to pay bills or buy food that should not be a problem.
- Fear or anxiety to discuss finances.
- No knowledge of finances or what documents have been signed.

## Suggestions...

- Keep money in a financial institution, rather than at home to avoid the risk of theft.
- Arrange to have cheques directly deposited into your account.
- Agree upon a schedule of repayment before loaning money to a relative.
- Find a person/lawyer you trust to review legal documents with you.
- Don't be pressured into signing any document. Talk to someone you trust first.

• deference to the caregiver (eg. waits for the caregiver to respond to all questions/consultation.)

## Noticeable in the Caregiver...

- speaks for elder
- is excessively involved with elder
- ignores needs and rights of the elder (eg. makes decisions for the elder without their input).

## Suggestions...

- Talk to someone you trust for support (friend, physician, health care worker)
- Contact Community Services (see attached phone numbers) for help and information
- Find out what options are available, such as housing, financial aid and legal services
- Know the emergency telephone number 9-1-1 and call in time of crisis
- If possible, speak to your caregiver about your feelings and suggest some possible changes