

10 *Tips to Help You Protect Your Money & Your Future*

- ❖ Use Direct Deposit for your checks.
- ❖ Don't sign blank checks allowing another person to fill in the amount.
- ❖ Don't leave money or valuables in plain view.
- ❖ Don't sign anything you don't understand.
- ❖ Protect your money. The bank may be able to protect your money by arranging your accounts to control access to your funds.
- ❖ Be aware of scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- ❖ Don't give anyone your ATM PIN number. Cancel your ATM card immediately if it is stolen.
- ❖ Check your bank statements carefully for unauthorized withdrawals.
- ❖ Be cautious of joint accounts.
- ❖ Build good relationships with the professionals who handle your money.

This brochure was provided by:



**LARAMIE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

EMERGENCY 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 307-637-6525

www.lcsd.net

For additional information
DOROTHY THOMAS
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

1-307-777-3602



**LARAMIE COUNTY
SHERIFF**

Sheriff Danny L. Glick

Protect Yourself From **FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**



What is Financial Exploitation?

Financial exploitation is the illegal or improper use of another individual's resources for personal profit or gain. This type of exploitation encompasses a broad range of conduct, from deception to intimidation.

Ways to Prevent Exploitation

Stay Socially Active

Social isolation increases your risk of becoming a victim of abuse. Become familiar with the many programs in your community designed to bring people together and to help elderly people and their families.

Get to Know Your Banker, Attorney, and Financial Consultant

Establish relationships with the professionals who handle your money. They can help detect changes in your financial activity that may signal a problem.

Don't Give Property Away

Before you enter into an agreement for lifelong care, discuss the arrangement with a trusted friend or advisor. Document the agreement and specify the compensation, if there is any, paid to the caregiver. If there is someone helping you with your personal finances, get a trusted third party to review your bank statement.

To Report Elder Financial Abuse,
Neglect or Exploitation, Call

307-777-3602

All Calls Are Confidential



Understand What You Are Signing

Before you assign power of attorney, be sure you understand the scope of the agreement and the authority you are giving to your agent. Know the

person to whom you are giving this authority. Also, specify the compensation, if any, to be paid to your agent.

Health Care Surrogate

A health care surrogate is a signed, dated and witnessed paper naming another person such as a husband, wife, daughter, son, or close friend as your agent to make medical decisions for you if you become unable to make them for yourself. You can include instructions about any treatment you want or wish to avoid. Florida law provides a suggested form for designation of a health care surrogate. You may wish to choose a second person to stand in for you should your first choice be unavailable.

You must be emotionally and mentally competent to appoint a health care surrogate or a living will declaration. A health care surrogate and a living will declaration are both considered advance directives.

Be Cautious of Joint Accounts

Both parties are equal owners of the account and both have equal access to the funds in the account.

Document Financial Arrangements

By putting financial arrangements in writing, you not only protect yourself but you also reduce the likelihood of legal proceedings. Put all financial instructions in writing and be specific. Keep complete financial records of all transactions. Put all financial documents in a safe place.

Ask for Help

Financial matters can be confusing. If you have questions or need assistance, ask for help from your bank, a trusted family member, clergy member, social worker or other professional.

