

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

Learn about Fraud Protection and Resources Available

This educational guide provides several resources to help with fraud protection and exploitation of assets by third parties when challenges from cognitive decline may arise.

Fraud Overview Sites

- **NASAA Fraud Center** | nasaa.org/2815/nasaa-fraud-center
- **AARP Fraud Watch Network** | aarp.org/money/scams-fraud
- **CFPB – For Older Adults and Their Families**
consumerfinance.gov/practitioner-resources/resources-for-older-adults

Guides for Seniors

There are guides that uncover red flags and list things one should do to protect themselves against investment fraud. These guides also provide information on how to file an official complaint if unethical or incompetent practices are suspected.

- **CFP® Board – Financial Self-Defense Guide for Seniors**
[letsmakeaplan.org/other-resources/legacy-content-\(redirected\)/financial-planning-resources/publications/request-a-free-guide-to-financial-self-defense-for-seniors](https://letsmakeaplan.org/other-resources/legacy-content-(redirected)/financial-planning-resources/publications/request-a-free-guide-to-financial-self-defense-for-seniors)
- **SEC Guide for Seniors – Protect Yourself Against Investment Fraud**
investor.gov/system/files/publications/documents/english/guideforseniors_0_0.pdf

Financial Educational Training Programs

There are training programs available that offer education for seniors to learn more about making comprehensive financial decisions with confidence. Many courses are instructor-led with curriculum designed to teach seniors about elder financial exploitation and why they may be at risk.

- **FDIC AND CFPB – Money Smart for Older Adults**
fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/olderadult.html

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Early Warning Signs for Capacity Challenges

As seniors age, they may experience a decline in their abilities to manage their cash and other financial assets in a manner that serves their best interests including the inability to understand the consequences of investment decisions. In addition, they also may become more vulnerable to investment fraud and other forms of financial exploitation.

- **CFPB – Planning for Diminished Capacity and Illness**

files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201505_cfpb_consumer-advisory-and-investor-bulletin-planning-for-diminished-capacity-and-illness.pdf

- **Alzheimer’s Association – 10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer’s**

alz.org/alzheimers_disease_10_signs_of_alzheimers.asp?type=carecenter_footer

- **NEFE Early Warning Signs: Impact of Aging on Financial Decision Making Checklist**

nefe.org/Portals/0/WhatWeProvide/PrimaryResearch/PDF/EWScard_final_web.pdf

Safeguarding Your Money

There are several common warning signs that indicate senior exploitation. There are also tips on how to identify financial exploitation and avoid financial scams.

- **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Answers on Aging™ – Financial Exploitation**

n4a.org/financialexploitation

- **CFPB – Managing Someone Else’s Money**

consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/managing-someone-elses-money

State Statutes

Every state offers statutes to protect against abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elders, dependent adults, and persons with disabilities. This link will provide you with resources on a state-by-state basis.

- **Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE)**

eagle.trea.usc.edu/law-enforcement-resources/state-statutes

Pacific Life takes protecting your assets seriously. Share your concerns about fraud and cognitive decline with your financial professional, they can help with planning strategies.