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## Financial Abuse

*Definition:* Misuse of a person's money, property or assets through theft or fraud.

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### *Mary's Story*

Mary used to have a life of comfort. She and her husband had planned well for their financial security.

Suddenly, Mary's husband took sick and passed away. Having no knowledge of money matters, she reluctantly agreed to her son's offer to take over her financial affairs.



Soon, Mary's savings were rapidly disappearing and debts were piling up. Sick with worry, she spoke to her son about the unpaid debts. He told her not to worry because he had her finances under control. Nevertheless, creditors continued to call her about unpaid bills.

A close friend suggested that Mary speak to someone at the Seniors Resource Centre. Mary did call the Centre. With their support and advice, Mary regained control of her financial affairs and learned how to protect herself from this type of abuse.



## Signs of Financial Abuse

- Senior's rent is not being paid on time
- An individual has signed a document (such as a will or property deed) without full understanding
- Possessions disappearing
- Unexplained transactions conducted on "behalf of" the senior
- Unexplained difference between known income and deposits in bank account

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## Examples of Financial Abuse

- Unauthorized cashing of pension cheques or withholding of funds
- Trying to persuade a person to give up control over his or her finances
- Attempting to persuade an elderly person to reassign title of his or her property
- Misuse of power of attorney or guardianship
- Telephone scams and "conning"

### For Assistance and Services – Regional Resources

#### Emergency shelters (for women of all ages)

- Iris Kirby House (St. John's) ..... 753-1492
- Shanawdithit Shelter (St. John's – also takes men) ..... 726-5970
- Cara House (Gander)..... 1-877-800-2272
- Transition House (Corner Brook).....  
..... 1-866-634-4198
- Grace Sparks House (Marystown) .....  
..... 1-877-774-4957
- Hope Haven (Labrador City).... 1-888-332-0000
- Libra House (HV-Goose Bay) ... 1-877-896-3014
- Nain Safe House (Nain) ..... 1-866-922-1230
- Nukim Munik Shelter (Sheshatshiu).. 497-8869

