

RESOURCES RELATED TO ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

AARP

AARP partners with local police and sheriffs' departments in many states to hold "Scam Jams," which are information sessions for older adults about financial risks and protections. The organization has a free "Fraud Watch Network" that sends alerts and news about scams, fraud, and identity theft to those who sign up for the service.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 established the CFPB which has the mission of "watching out for American consumers in the market for consumer financial products and services." Within the Bureau, there is an Office of Financial Protection for Older Americans. This office provides a curriculum on preventing financial exploitation of older adults, as well as guides for various agents responsible for financial caregiving of older adults (e.g., powers of attorney, court-appointed guardians, trustees, and government fiduciaries). The downloadable guides explain in lay language the responsibilities of a fiduciary.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

The FTC's financial fraud campaign, "Pass it On," is a consumer education program aimed at older adults that discusses identity theft, imposter scams, charity fraud, health care scams, paying too much, and "you've won!" scams. Based on an empowerment message, this program encourages older adults to share what they have learned about financial fraud with their friends and family, regardless of whether they themselves have been the target of a financial scam.

Wells Fargo Investment

Elder Client Initiatives is a program that provides information for its network of advisors to help them recognize suspicious financial decision making or possible fraud in their clients' accounts.

Additional online resources:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation—*Fraud Target: Senior Citizens*
- Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force—*Protect Yourself: Elder Fraud and Financial Exploitation*
- National Council on Aging—*Top 10 Scams Targeting Seniors*
- Consumer Federation of America—*Nation's Top Ten Consumer Complaints*

NOTE: See *Cognitive Aging: Progress in Understanding and Opportunities for Action*, Box 6-1, for citation information (available for download at www.nas.edu/cognitiveaging).