



Financial Abuse Easy Read Leaflet





Introduction

This leaflet will help you to understand what **financial** abuse is, how to spot the signs of it, how it can make you feel, and how you can keep yourself safe.



What is Financial Abuse?

When people take your money or things without asking you.



Borrowing money and not giving it back.



Stealing money or belongings.



Taking money as payment for coming to visit.



Forcing someone to give money away.



Cost of Living

The cost of things like food, gas, electricity, and petrol has gone up.



Wages are not going up as much so many people are struggling to pay for things.



Companies may offer help by lending you money. They will expect more money back.



They might use threats if you don't pay it back.



Criminals pretend to offer support. They use phone calls, emails, and text messages to scam the public.



Criminals may ask you for your:

Name



Date of Birth



Address



Bank Details



They use it to steal your **personal information** and **financial information**.

Signs of Financial Abuse

Unexplained money loss



Lack of money to pay for rent, bills, and food.



No access to check bank accounts and bank balance.



Unusual purchases in bank statements.



Not seeing friends and family.



Not receiving benefits.



Lots of 'junk' mail.



This video will help you to **spot the signs** of doorstep **crime** and **financial** abuse.

[Spot the Signs of Financial Abuse](#)



Who financially abuses?

It might be a stranger who talks to you so they can take your money or things you own.



It might be someone you know:

Family members, friends, or neighbours.



Care workers or other professionals.

How does Financial Abuse make you feel?



Ashamed or embarrassed



Lonely



Angry



Worried about upsetting family.



Unsure how to get help or who to talk to.



Loss of confidence.



Tips and advice for keeping safe

Check receipts and what money is spent.



Only let people you trust have access to your accounts and money.



Do not send money or information to people before checking who they are.



If people coming to the door are frightening you, do not answer.



If you are worried call 101.

If it is an **emergency** call 999.



You could get an intercom or peephole installed.



Do your research when employing people for household jobs or repairs.



Check your bank statements regularly.



Keep important documents and valuables safe and out of sight.



Choose secure passwords for online banking that only you know.



Help and Support

If you or someone you know is being hurt or treated badly, you can call the Police on 101 or 999.



You can speak to Adult Social Care by calling 0121 704 8007.



You can also talk to someone you know and trust like family, friends, or a member of staff.