

# Financial Abuse

## What Is It?

The Care Act 2014 describes 'financial abuse' as a type of abuse which includes; having money or other property stolen, being defrauded, being put under pressure in relation to money or other property and having money or other property misused. What financial abuse looks like can vary which can make it difficult to detect and identify. As the Care Act 2014 definition shows, financial abuse can involve money, property or belongings. Financial abuse can restrict freedom and choice and can often happen alongside other types of abuse.

Financial abuse might look like:

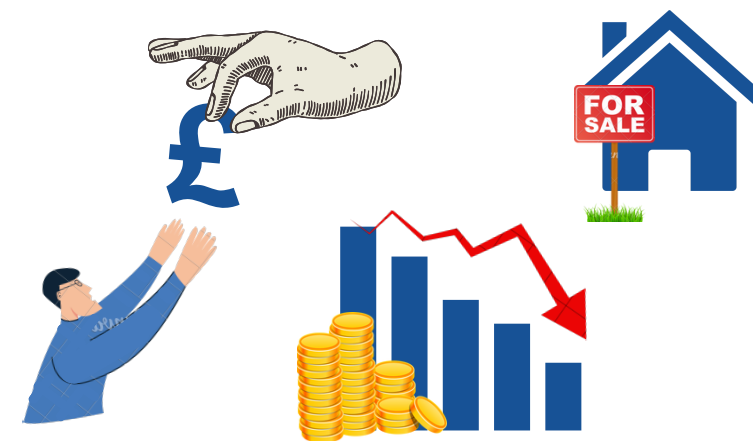
- Borrowing money and not giving it back
- Stealing money or belongings
- Taking pension payments or other benefits away from someone
- Taking money as payment for coming to visit or spending time together
- Forcing someone to sell their home or assets
- Tricking someone into bad investments
- Pressuring or even forcing someone to make changes in wills, property, or inheritance

## Who is Likely to Perpetrate Financial Abuse?

Financial abuse is most frequently perpetrated by a person acting in a trusted capacity. This includes family members, friends, neighbours, care workers and other professionals.

In 2021/22 69% of adults subject to a section 42 enquiry into alleged financial abuse were being abused by someone they knew – a family member, friend, or someone else they held in their confidence (*NHS Digital, 2022*).

Financial abuse may also be perpetrated by individuals who are initially strangers and seek out vulnerable adults with the intention of exploiting them. This includes mass marketing fraud, identity theft, scams, or rogue traders.



# Good Practice Guidance

**This is following the learning taken from an audit completed specifically reviewing financial abuse safeguarding referrals.**

- Ensure practitioners are considering the use of translators where appropriate.
- Practitioners to provide an analysis of their findings when they have completed a mental capacity assessment which shares a summary of their professional judgement.
- Having a focus on each risk where there are multiple identified for the person and ensuring there are clear actions to reduce each risk.
- Reminding teams to make use of the SMBC Fraud team in situations where financial abuse concerns are raised.
- To ensure managers are probing practitioners to challenge further when undertaking mental capacity assessments.
- Ensure a multi-agency approach to managing risks where other agencies are involved, to explore the best way to tackle risks using different approaches.
- Consider appropriate safeguards when discussions with the person take place alongside the perpetrator.
- Where the person has a will in place and this has been changed to include the person causing harm, consider how the practitioner can disrupt this or work with the solicitor to share concerns.

## Resources

- [Face to Face Interpreting Services | DA Languages](#)
- [Guidance on Professional Curiosity and Persistence - \(Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board\)](#)
- [Financial Abuse Guidance - \(Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board\)](#)
- [Multi-Agency Risk Management Guidance for Professionals - \(Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board\)](#)
- [Screening Tool for Economic Abuse - \(Surviving Economic Abuse\)](#)
- SMBC fraud team provide a financial investigation service to support any ongoing investigations you have whereby the suspect(s) has/have profited from their crime. We help to support the ongoing investigation through a qualified Financial Investigator to obtain such details as bank statements, financial records and identify assets obtained as a result of criminal activity. For further details please contact Steve Sparkes on 0121 704 6282 or [ssparkes@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:ssparkes@solihull.gov.uk)