FINANCIAL ABUSE – IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

WHAT IS FINANCIAL ABUSE?

Financial abuse occurs when someone tries to take or control what belongs to you for their own benefit, not yours. This can include your money, your property, or your personal information.

SOME WARNING SIGNS

- Your bank statements show account withdrawals or transfers you did not do
- A trusted person suggests that you make changes to important contracts – your Will, Power of Attorney, trusts, title to property, deeds or mortgages – that you do not want to make or are not in your best interest
- You feel afraid of, or pressured by, a trusted person

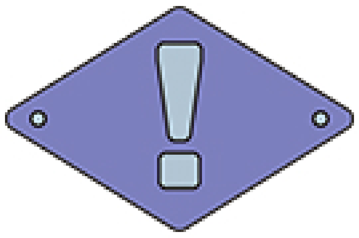
HOW CAN YOU PREVENT IT?

- If you are able, do financial transactions yourself through telephone or online banking if it is difficult for you to get out
- Powers of Attorney, joint accounts or other arrangements may be useful, but you must be careful. It is generally safer to use a Power of Attorney – which allows a trusted person to act and make decisions for you and obligates them to act in your interest – instead of a joint account – which makes the trusted person the joint owner of your money or investments
- Make sure you understand every document you sign do not sign blank documents and do not give anyone your bank card or PIN

FINANCIAL ABUSERS — WHO ARE THEY?

A financial abuser can be a trusted person in your life:

- a spouse
- adult child
- grandchild
- caregiver
- friend
- neighbour



Remember, financial abuse is a violation of your rights. It is not your fault, and you can get help. A list of resources by province can be found at **cba.ca/abuse**.

CANADIAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Learn more about how to spot financial abuse through the Canadian Bankers Association's free seminar program, Your Money Seniors. **cba.ca/seniors**.