

Avoiding Exploitation

- Be suspicious if a deal seems too good to be true. It could be a scam!
- **Do not give out personal information to phone solicitors.** Protect your credit cards, Social Security and ATM information.
- Get estimates before doing renovations. Do not pay for work in advance. Check insurance references and credentials
- Do not sign a power of attorney or any other document that allows another person to act on your behalf unless you have a complete understanding of the actions he or she can take using your name and assets.
- Use good financial practices. Sign up for direct deposit. Do not sign blank checks. Never leave money lying around. Shred credit card offers.
- Maintain a network of friends and professionals.

To report or discuss elder abuse, neglect or financial exploitation contact:

Wyoming Elder Abuse Hotline

1-800-457-3659

To report or discuss financial or consumer crimes contact:

Wyoming Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit

1-800-438-5799

CODY POLICE DEPARTMENT

1402 River View Drive
Cody WY 82414

Phone: 527-8700
Fax: 527-8722



Protect Yourself from Financial Exploitation

Be Safe and Aware

Stop Financial Exploitation before it happens!



Ways Strangers Can Exploit You

Someone wants you to...

- Buy a valueless or nonexistent product
- Invest in a fictitious company
- Claim a nonexistent prize, but first wants you to pay for shipping and handling charges or to verify your identity
- Accept an unsolicited service for a reasonable fee; however, after starting the work, he or she will insist you pay more than originally agreed
- Split a large sum of money that has just been found; however, first you must withdraw an amount equal to your share in order to show a sign of good faith.

Someone convinces you to...

- Help catch a dishonest bank employee. An individual claims to be a bank examiner and convinces you to make a large cash withdrawal to help catch the dishonest employee
- Donate to a bogus charity
- Help someone, maybe your child or friend, who has been seriously injured or is in jail and needs money for medical treatment or bail



Be Suspicious if Someone...

- Obtains access to checks written to you, your personal accounts or ATM
- Charges you excessive rent or fees for basic services
- Coerces you into signing checks or personal asset documents through the use of force, manipulation, intimidation or threats
- Fraudulently uses a power of attorney or fiduciary authority to alter your will, obtain access to your finances or dispose of your income or assets.
- Indicates he or she will stop providing for your care unless you give him or her more money or assets.
- Steals money or assets from you