

# Financial Abuse: Warning Signs



**There are a number of behaviours that may be present during an interaction if one of your customers is experiencing financial abuse.**

There are a lot of different ways someone can be financially abusive towards a family member. Financially abusive behaviour can take many different forms such as controlling a family member's money, stopping them from being financially independent or earning their own money.

## **FINANCIAL ABUSE WARNING SIGNS**

- Taking instructions from someone else.
- Being withdrawn or silent during appointments.
- Appearing fearful of the other person.
- Confusion on the purpose of a loan or product.
- Being unaware of products in their name.
- A co-borrower not being present at appointments.
- Mentioning that an intervention order is in place.
- Expressing concerns about privacy.
- If a person does not have access to account information.
- Someone mentioning they are not allowed to work or study.

## **FINANCIAL ELDER ABUSE RED FLAGS**

- Reluctance to make a will.
- Loss of jewellery and personal property.
- Unprecedented transfer of funds.
- Improper attainment, or misuse of a Power of Attorney or Enduring Power of Attorney.
- Loss of financial material e.g. bank books, credit cards, cheque books.
- Bills not paid when money entrusted to a third party.
- Management of a competent person's finances by another person.
- Sudden inability to pay bills, rent, buy food or participate in social activities.
- Unexplained withdrawal from bank accounts.
- Cashing of personal cheques.
- Removal of cash from a wallet.

For more information on how you can support a client experiencing financial abuse visit the Women + Money website.

**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.womenandmoney.org.au](http://www.womenandmoney.org.au)