

Hawaii Partnership Against Fraud Presents

IS THIS FOR REAL?

Who is HPAF?

- Purpose of HPAF
- Partnering Agencies

Goals

1. LEARN about senior financial abuse
2. IDENTIFY different types of scams
3. UNDERSTAND how to protect yourself from fraud

SENIOR FINANCIAL ABUSE is when an elder is a victim of fraud.

- May occur without the victim's knowledge
- May occur with the victim's knowledge but against their better judgment
- An exploiter can be a caregiver, family member, friend, financial advisor, attorney or other professional
- Often an under-reported crime

Why are Seniors Targeted?

- Often have more money saved and stored in their accounts
- Most have excellent account histories (multi-accounts, high balance, no recent overdrafts or return items)



Why are Seniors Targeted?

- Exploiters believe that seniors are:
 - More trusting
 - Are uninformed because the world has changed since their prime
 - Have reduced social interaction and are lonely
 - May need assistance because of a physical and mental condition related to age



Look out for these

TOP TEN SCAMS

that occur in Hawaii.

#1 SWEEPSTAKES & LOTTERIES



You're told that
you've won a
sweepstakes or
lottery



You're told you
have to pay fees
& taxes first to
get the prize
money



No one receives
a penny except
for the
fraudsters

#2 CARETAKER CRIMES



Be alert for caregivers who:

- Try to isolate you from your friends and family
- Ask you about your will, investments and personal valuables
- Ask to be given power of attorney
- Try to dominate or influence you

#3 Forced CASH WITHDRAWALS



Bank tellers witness a senior withdraw a large amount of cash while they are in the company of another person.

TIP: Do not hesitate to tell the teller if someone is forcing you to withdraw your money.

#3 CARD FRAUD

A majority of unauthorized ATM transactions affecting seniors are committed by someone they know.



TIP:

- Memorize your PIN and do not write it down.
- Store your credit and ATM cards in a secure location.
- Shield the ATM keypad when entering your PIN



#5 WORK AT HOME

Payment Processor
Positions



Secret Shopper
Scams



#6 CONTRACTOR FRAUD

- Traveling contractors are rarely licensed or insured and often request a large cash payment up front.
- They may begin the job, but create an excuse to ask for more money.

TIP: Consider using only licensed and reputable companies.



#7 FRAUDLENT LOANS

- Door-to-door or telephone sales people offering “easy financing” for mortgage refinancing or home improvements that may not be needed at all. These fraudsters often work with bogus lenders.
- The bogus loans have inflated fees and carry high interest rates and/or are designed to eventually steal your home.

#8 INVESTMENT FRAUD

- Fraudsters convince victims to buy phony investments with promises of unusually high returns.
- Pyramid Schemes
 - “Investment Clubs” or “Gifting Circles”



#9 PHISHING SCHEMES

(pronounced like FISHING with a P)

- A term used for emails that claim to be from your bank or a reputable business or government agency.
- Criminals ask for credit or debit card or account information.
- The information is used to perpetrate fraud using your identity.

#10 CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS

- Fraudsters use nonexistent or fictitious charities to solicit victims for money that they think are being donated to a worthy cause.
- Often use “sound-alike” names.

TIP: Before you donate, check to see if the charity is legitimate by calling the Attorney General Tax & Charities Division: (808) 586-1480

PROTECT YOURSELF

- **REMEMBER:** Financial exploitation is often committed by a *person that is trusted* by the victim.
- Keep all important financial documents under lock and key.
- Consider using a safe deposit box.



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Be CAUTIOUS of the following:
 - Someone who calls you asking you to reveal your personal & financial info
 - Allowing strangers to come into your house
 - Believing that a stranger will use your money for a good purpose
 - Assigning power of attorney to people you don't know very well



PROTECT YOURSELF

- REVIEW your bank statements timely and REPORT any unauthorized discrepancies to your financial institution immediately.
- Do not provide CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFO unless you are sure you know who you are dealing with.
- Be wary of signing BLANK CONTRACTS or other documents that can be filled in later by a scam artist.

IF YOU BECOME VICTIMIZED

- **CALL THE POLICE**

- You might need make a police report to help you prove that you were a victim and get your money back

- **CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTION**

- The financial institution might be able to take steps to prevent further victimization and assist you with law enforcement contact.

- **CONTACT HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

ADDITIONAL RRESOURCES

- Police: 911
- Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services (APS):
 - Oahu: 808-832-5115
 - Kauai: 808-241-3337
 - Maui, Lanai, Molokai: 808-243-5151
 - Ka' u, Kona, Kohala, Kamuela: 808-327-6280
 - Hilo, Hamakua, Puna: 808-933-8820
- Hawaii Better Business Bureau (BBB): 808-628-3950
- FBI: 808-566-4300
- US Postal Inspector: 877-876-2455
- Executive Office on Aging & Long-Term Care Ombudsman: 808-586-0100
- Elder Abuse Unit: 808-768-6452

QUESTIONS?

Mahalo for listening!