

## Who should you call for help?

### **Senior Abuse Line:** 1-877-833-3377

Call the Senior Abuse Line for information or to talk about a situation of abuse. Your call will be kept confidential.

### **Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia:** 455-3135 1-800-665-9779

The Legal Information Society is a not-for-profit organization that provides information on legal issues and lawyer referral.

### **Police:** 911 for emergencies only

Abuse may be a crime and fall under the Criminal Code. Call your local police station for information or to report abuse. If the situation is an emergency or if it could be dangerous, call 911.

### **PhoneBusters:** 1-888-495-8501 [www.phonebusters.ca](http://www.phonebusters.ca)

Report scams and fraud to PhoneBusters.

### **Adult Protection:** 1-800-225-7225

If you know of a senior in need of protection, call Adult Protection Services at the Department of Health. If financial abuse occurs at the same time as other forms of abuse, Adult Protection workers may be able to intervene and offer services to help those in need of protection.

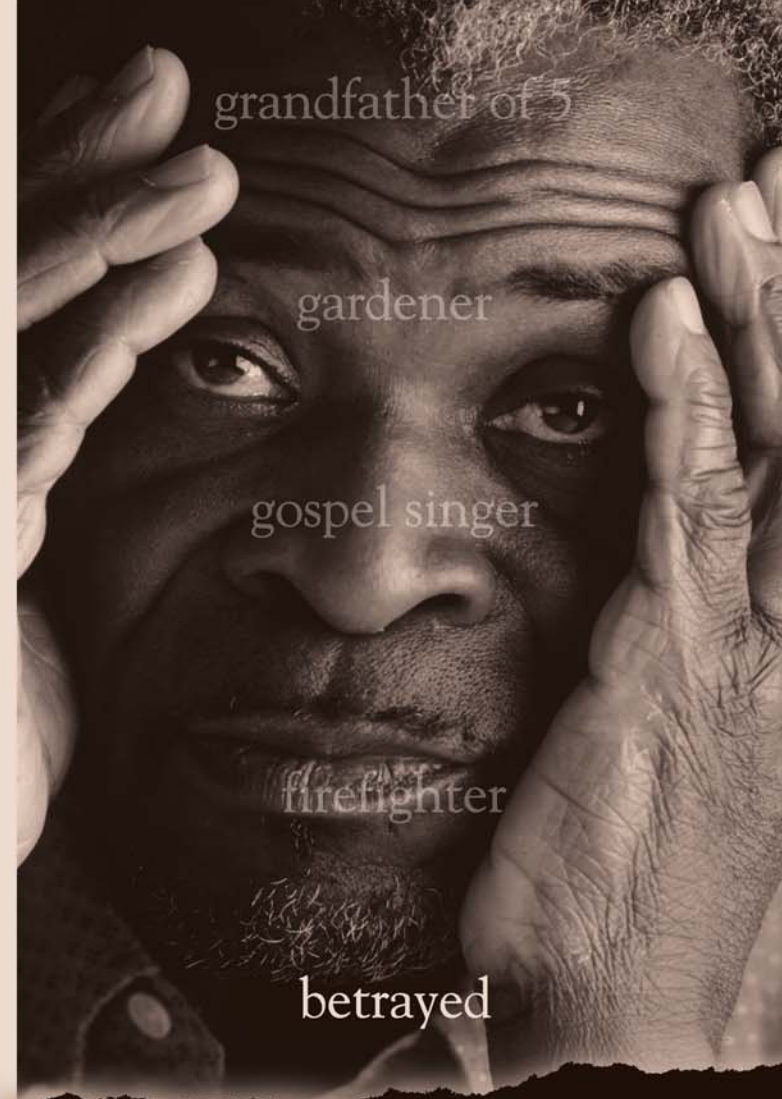
For general information about programs and services available for seniors, contact:

Nova Scotia Seniors' Secretariat  
1740 Granville Street, 4th Floor  
PO Box 2065  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2Z1

Phone: (902) 424-0065  
Toll-free: 1-800-670-0065  
E-mail: [scs@gov.ns.ca](mailto:scs@gov.ns.ca)

The Secretariat's website has a wide range of information about senior abuse:  
[www.gov.ns.ca/scs](http://www.gov.ns.ca/scs)

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**Seniors'  
Secretariat**  
Giving Nova Scotia Seniors a Voice

  
**NOVA SCOTIA**

# Financial Abuse

## Respect

Nova Scotia's Seniors

## Did you know that financial exploitation is the most commonly reported form of abuse of seniors?

Financial exploitation has two main forms—financial abuse and economic crime.

This is one form of senior abuse. Other forms include emotional, physical, sexual, neglect, and violation of rights.

Financial exploitation can happen to anyone. If it happens to you, remember, you are not alone, you are not to blame.

Economic Crime includes consumer fraud, investment fraud, scams, and identity theft. These crimes can be carried out through e-mail or the Internet, by door-to-door salespeople, or by telemarketers. Call PhoneBusters or your local police if you suspect that you are being targeted.

## Financial Abuse is a violation of trust.

Someone you know and trust—a family member, friend, or care provider—tries to take what belongs to you, such as your money, your property, or other assets. Financial abuse is unethical. Sometimes it is also illegal.

### Examples of financial abuse:

- Someone puts pressure on you to gain access to your money or property.
- Someone misuses a power of attorney to take your money.
- Someone forces or tricks you into signing a contract or a will.

Financial abuse often goes hand in hand with emotional abuse. The person may manipulate you, bully you, or threaten you to get your money or other valuables.

**Remember... it's your money.**

## What should you do?

### Prevent it!

- Conduct your own financial matters as much as possible.
- Plan ahead and make your wishes known.
- Say “no” when someone pressures you for money—even family members.
- Make sure you understand every document you sign.

### Report it!

- Talk to someone you trust.
- Call your local police. They will investigate to determine if the abuse is a crime and will recommend how to proceed.

### Get legal information and advice!

- Talk with a lawyer when making plans such as creating a power of attorney.
- Good legal information and advice is an important investment.

**Abuse can happen to anyone.**



Respect Nova Scotia's Seniors