

# Text Transcript of Keep Control's video: 'What is Elder Financial Abuse'

## Introduction

Narrator: Most older people live healthy and happy lives. Furthermore, most older people enjoy positive and mutually supportive relationships with their family, friends and neighbours. However, there are some older people who are exploited, taken advantage of or abused.

Elder financial abuse is understood as the unauthorised and improper use of funds, property or any resources of an older person. This may include crimes such as theft, fraud, forgery, misuse of power of attorney and, coercion or blackmail using threatening or forceful behaviour.

Financial abuse can also be subtle. Examples include using your property or possessions without your permission, threatening to stop providing care for you unless money is given, not giving you money for household costs where this was previously agreed, making decisions about how to spend your money without consulting you or putting pressure on you to sign documents you do not understand.

Elder financial abuse is underreported and may be hard to recognise. The following scene is an example of a typical form of elder financial abuse.

## Drama

**[Setting: The kitchen of an older person's home]**

[Older person leaves the room]

Son: I need money for shopping. Where's the money?

[Son raids mothers purse, steals Vodka and leaves the house]

**[Later that same day]**

[Older person checks presses for food]

Older Person: I thought you went out to buy food, there's nothing there.

Son: You must've eaten it all.

Older Person: I couldn't have, sure you only bought it yesterday...

Son: You're always blaming me when you forget things. Would you stop nagging me, I'll leave you by yourself. Then who'll look after you?

[Son leaves the room]

## **Conclusion**

Narrator: This video is part of the Keep Control campaign which was developed with the support of the HSE by the National Centre for the Protection of Older People at UCD and the Older People's Empowerment Network.

The aim of the campaign is to give you the information and resources you need to protect yourself from potential abuse, before it ever occurs.

The campaign encourages you to use these resources to empower yourself so that you can make sure that your wishes and decisions for your finances are understood and respected by others.

The three key messages of the Keep Control campaign are:

It is your right to be free from intimidation and bullying

It is your right to Keep Control of your money and affairs

It is your responsibility to Keep Control of your money and affairs

For more information about this campaign please see our website [www.keepcontrol.ie](http://www.keepcontrol.ie)