

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



Who is Considered an At-Risk Person?

- At-Risk Adult:
 - 18 years old or older.
 - Loss of or permanent loss of use of a hand or foot.
 - Blind or permanent impairment of vision of **BOTH** eyes.
 - Unable to walk.
 - Unable to speak.
 - Unable to hear.
 - Unable to breathe without MECHANICAL assistance.
 - Mental Illness or mental impairment.



At-Risk Adults with IDD



An at-risk adult with IDD is a person who is **eighteen** years of age or older who has an intellectual and developmental disability resulting in an impairment of intellectual function or adaptive behavior, i.e., social, conceptual, and practical skills to function in daily life.

- Onset of an intellectual and developmental disability occurs before the person is 22 years old.



Intellectual Disability



An adult with an intellectual disability has a below-average ability in either of the following two areas:

- Cognitive functioning; I.Q. is 70 or below
- Adaptive functioning; Significant limitations in the ability to socialize, provide self-care, or communicate

Developmental Disability



“Developmental disability” is a broader term used to summarize disabilities such as:

- Autism spectrum disorders
- Epilepsy
- Cerebral palsy
- Developmental delay
- Down Syndrome
- Fetal alcohol syndrome
- And other disorders

At-risk Elders



An at-risk elder is any person who is 70 years of age or older. The elder does not need to have any other risk factors or disability to be considered an at-risk elder under the mandatory reporting law.



Mandatory Reporting for At-Risk Adu



- Since July 1, 2014, certain professionals have been required to report mistreatment of At-Risk Elders to law enforcement.
- Beginning July 1, 2016, these same professionals and some new groups of professionals will be required to also report mistreatment of At-Risk Adults with an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD).
- For simplicity in this training, the term “the adult” will refer to “at-risk elders” and “at-risk adults with IDD”.
- Reminder: Some of you are also mandated to report child abuse (19-3-304, C.R.S.)

What do I need to report?



If you are a mandatory reporter and you observe mistreatment, or have reasonable cause to believe an at-risk person has been or is at imminent risk of mistreatment, you must make a report to law enforcement within 24 hours.



Failure to Report



- If you willfully fail to make a report of mistreatment it is a Class 3 Misdemeanor.



- If charged and convicted you could receive a fine of up to \$750, or six months in jail, or both.

False Reporting



- If you knowingly and willfully make a false report it is also a Class 3 Misdemeanor.



- If charged and convicted you could receive a fine of up to \$750, or six months in jail, or both

Scams Targeting Seniors



National Council on Aging (NCOA) Top Financial Scams Targeting Seniors

- Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered "the crime of the 21st century."
- Why?
 - Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts.



Utility Scam

- Wears a uniform
- Involves 2 or more operatives
- Diverts attention – “There’s a water problem.”
- Calls his accomplice



IRS Tax Scam

- Caller says you owe unpaid taxes
- To avoid arrest send money and / or disclose personal information
- Caller usually reads from a badly written script
- IRS does not call demanding money!



Credit Card Debit Card Scams

- Caller reports they need to verify you still have your card because it appears there have been unauthorized purchases.
- Ask for your card number, expiration date, and 3-digit security code.

Microsoft Computer Scam

- Caller says he's from Microsoft
- Your software license is about to expire
- “Are you at your computer?”
- There is virus on your computer
- He's going to “guide you....”
- Foreign accent



Lottery Hustlers

- You receive check for thousands \$\$\$\$\$\$
- Request you cash the check and send money....
- Counterfeit check



Sweepstakes & Lottery Scams

- Scammers inform their mark they have won a lottery or sweepstakes of some kind and need to make some sort of payment to unlock the supposed prize. Often seniors will be sent a check that they can deposit in their bank account which is fraudulent and will be rejected in a few days by their bank.
- Remember “There’s no such thing as a free lunch”, and you can’t win a lottery or sweepstakes if you didn’t enter it!



Medicare/Health Insurance Scams

- Perpetrators may pose as a Medicare representative to obtain personal information, and then possibly use the information to bill Medicare and pocket the money.



Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

- Usually operate on the internet where seniors increasingly go to find better prices on specialized medications.
- Besides paying money for something that will not help a person's medical condition, victims may purchase unsafe substances that can inflict even more harm.



Funeral & Cemetery Scams

- Scammers read obituaries and call or attend the funeral service of a complete stranger to take advantage of the grieving widow or widower.
 - Scammers claim the deceased had an outstanding debt with them and then try to extort money.
- Disreputable funeral homes may attempt to add unnecessary charges to the bill such as insisting that an expensive casket be used even when performing a cremation in which a less expensive casket can and should be used.



Pigeon Drop

- **The Pigeon Drop** – The con artist tells the individual that he/she has found a large sum of money and is willing to split it if the person will make a “good faith” payment by withdrawing funds from his/her bank account.
- Often, a second con artist is involved posing as a lawyer, banker, or other trustworthy stranger.



Grandma Scam

- **Fake Accident Ploy** – The con artist gets the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person's child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money.
- **Jail Ploy** – The con artist gets the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person's grandchild or other relative has been arrested and needs to post bail.



Grandparent Scam

- Scammers will place a call to an older person and say something along the lines of “Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?” When the unsuspecting grandparent guesses the name of the grandchild the scammer most sounds like, the scammer will ask for money to solve some unexpected financial problem (overdue rent, payment for car repairs etc.) to be paid via Western Union or MoneyGram, which don’t always require identification to collect.
- Often the scammer will beg the grandparent “Please don’t tell my parents, they would kill me.”



Charity Scams

- **Charity Scams** – Money is solicited for fake charities. This often occurs after natural disasters.
 - No face to face interaction and no paper trail makes this type of scam hard for detectives to trace.



Publisher's Clearing House

- January 2017 - Elderly victim was contacted and told that she won Publisher's Clearing House but needed to send money for taxes.
 - The senior withdrew \$750,000 (All of her assets) and sent them.



Current/Recent Local Scams - Continued

- Two other cases since December involving Publisher's Clearing House were both victims sent money. One case the victim was told she would receive \$5,000 per week so she gave them bank info & social security number along with her date of birth.
- Later noticed two additional people were on her bank account and her social security checks were being sent to another account (Not hers).

Work From Home and Craigslist

- Several work from home scams.
- Secret Shopper.
- Craigslist where the victim never received the item.



Home Repair Scams

- Roofing.
- Driveways.
- Exterior painting.

Crimes Against At-Risk Persons Unit

Sergeant Dan Thompson – 444-7509
Detective Chuck Szatkowski – 444-7594
Detective Steve Worley – 444-7964
Investigator Deb Adelbush – 444-7551



Questions/Comments?

