



Patrick Doherty

ABUSE IN LATER LIFE EDUCATION SERIES FOR ADVOCATES:
**ECONOMIC ABUSE & FINANCIAL
EXPLOITATION IN LATER LIFE**

Module 6

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

2017

Office on Violence Against Women Abuse in Later Life Program

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As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

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- Define and identify indicators of economic abuse in the context of intimate partner violence
- Define and identify indicators of financial exploitation by family members, trusted others, or strangers
- Identify resources to assist older victims who have experienced economic abuse or financial exploitation

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Economic Abuse and Financial Exploitation

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- **Economic abuse:** “when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources, which diminishes the victim's capacity to support him/herself and forces him/her to depend on the perpetrator financially”
- **Financial exploitation:** Illegal or improper use of an older adult's funds, property or assets.

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Economic Abuse by Intimate Partner



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Common Indicators of Economic Abuse #1

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- Not allowing access to family funds or including in financial decisions
- Taking victim's money or making victim ask for money
- Destroying credit

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Common Indicators of Economic Abuse #2

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- ❑ Not allowing victim to get necessary health care or other services “due to the cost”
- ❑ Forcing the victim to sign papers (e.g., IRS documents, immigration papers, court papers)
- ❑ Misuse of powers of attorney or guardianships

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Impact on Older Victims

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- ❑ Employment challenges
- ❑ Limited Social Security or other benefits
- ❑ Poor credit
- ❑ Lack of basic financial expertise
- ❑ Lack of information about or access to family financial resources

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Financial Exploitation



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Gina Bower

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Family Members and Financial Exploitation

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Bobbie Sackman
Advocate of Elder Rights, LiveOn NY, New York, NY

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Financial Exploitation

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- Most commonly stolen items are cash, checks, and debit cards
- Many older victims have a physical disability (1/3) or cognitive impairment (1/2), such as dementia
- Many older victims do not fully understand that their money or valuables were stolen

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New York State, 2016 study

Anne

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Impact on Anne and Other Victims

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- ❑ Betrayal by family member
- ❑ Shame and embarrassment
- ❑ Loss of financial resources that they may not be able to ever recover
- ❑ Can lose life savings, home

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Common Tools Used to Gain Access

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- ❑ Guilt, manipulation, and undue influence
- ❑ Threats and intimidation
- ❑ Powers of Attorney
- ❑ Guardianships
- ❑ Transfer of home and other property to offender

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Stranger Scams

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- Identity theft
- Investment fraud
- Mortgage and lending fraud
- Mass marketing (calls, emails, letters)

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Connecting with Resources

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- Financial advisors or benefits specialist
- Elder law attorneys
- Local law enforcement or adult protective services
- Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

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Summary

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- Economic abuse is a common tactic used by intimate partners.
- Financial exploitation is a form of elder abuse, often committed by family members.

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Summary

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- Look for indicators of economic abuse and financial exploitation.
- Ask victims questions.
- Identify local resources to provide information and support for victims.

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Video Presenters

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- **Bobbie Sackman**
Advocate of Elder Rights, Live On, NY
- **Diane Slezak**
CEO, Age Options, IL

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Special Appreciation

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To Anne, for the courage to tell your story so others may benefit.

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Thank You

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- Special thanks to Terra Nova Films for the ongoing working partnership with NCALL and the beautiful video production
- www.terranova.org

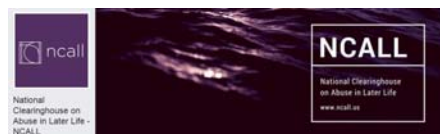


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Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

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- Sign up for our newsletter: <http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262>
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: ncall@ncall.us
- Join us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ncall.us
- Join us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ncall_us



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National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life,
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(Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

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