

Elder Abuse Bills - Update 2011-2012 Michigan Legislature June 27, 2012

Ten bills designed to prevent vulnerable adult abuse and strengthen existing abuse laws and penalties were recently signed by Governor Rick Snyder. Four remaining bills are in the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee, and the other four bills are in the House Banking and Financial Services Committee. The bills have to be reported out of these committees, and then be approved by the entire House before they can go to Governor Snyder for his signature.

**Advocates are encouraged to contact their State Representative
and urge them to pass the remaining bills.**

Michigan State Representatives: (517) 373-0135

To read the full text and analyses of each bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov.

Signed by the Governor into Law

[454](#) – Allows videotape testimony in court

[455](#), [465](#) & [468](#) – Creates stricter penalties and sentencing guidelines for severe financial abuse

[459](#) – Allows stricter penalties for fraudulent signatures and other severe financial abuse

[466](#) – Senior Alert, similar to Amber Alert, coordinates missing-person notification

[457](#) – Counties may establish elder death review team to investigate questionable deaths

[461](#) – Increases safeguards to protect wards from unscrupulous guardians

[462](#) – Nursing home employees can report suspected abuse to Department of Human Services without repercussion from employer

[464](#) – Develops state model for coordinated and consistent investigation of alleged vulnerable adult abuse by involved agencies

In addition, Senate Bill [92](#) which strengthens protections for individuals who sign over their Power of Attorney, was signed by Governor Snyder in June, 2012.

In House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee – Rep. Kenneth Kurtz, Chair (517) 373-1794

[463](#) – Banks may offer employee training on detecting suspected financial exploitation

[467](#) – Creates stricter penalties for severe financial abuse

[706](#) – Prohibits use of unearned or fictitious senior-specific designation or certification by insurance salespersons

[777](#) – Enacts specific life insurance and annuity replacement regulation

In House Banking Committee – Rep. Marty Knollenberg, Chair (517) 373-1783

[456](#), [460](#), [604](#), [605](#) – Financial institutions must provide written summary of joint account holder rights