

Financial Empowerment for Family Caregivers Overview

Successful Aging thru Financial Empowerment
(SAFE)



Institute of Gerontology



Topics

- Difficult Conversations
- Managing Someone Else's Money
- Common Scams and Identity Theft

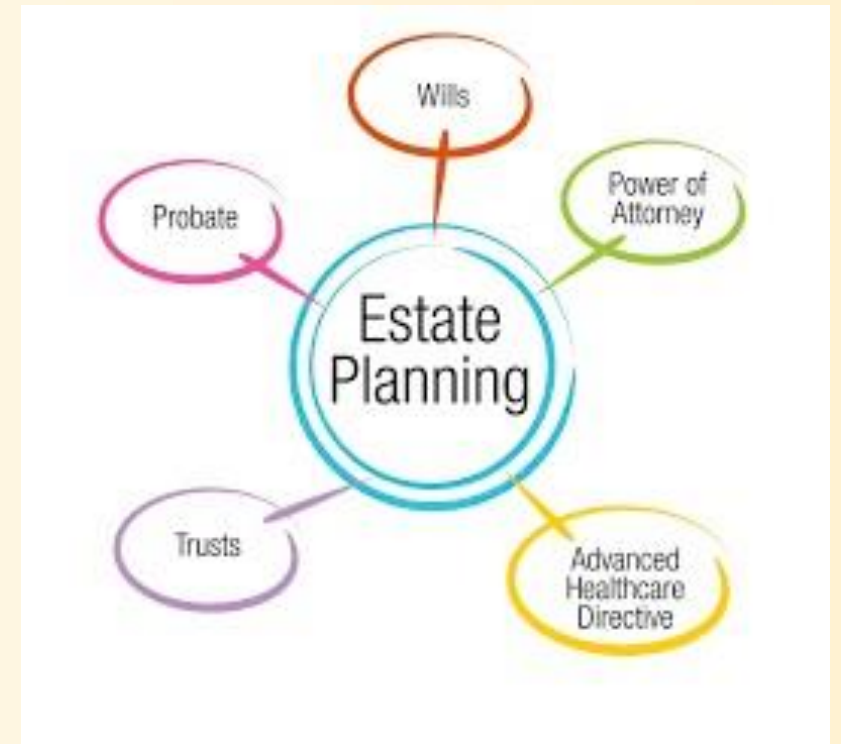


Difficult Conversations



Why Have Conversations About Finances?

- Time Sensitive
- Importance of Estate Planning
- Capacity
- Older Adults as Targets



Why Are Finances Hard to Discuss?

- Finances are a private matter, or taboo
- 36% of adult children don't know where parent financial resources are kept
- People want to control their own finances
- Older adults sometimes perceive more risk than benefit from discussing finances



WHY ARE THESE CONVERSATIONS DIFFICULT?



- Am I competent?
- Am I a good person, parent or child?
- Am I respected?



... BECAUSE IT HITS THE CORE OF WHO WE ARE!



Common Mistakes by Adult Children and Others

Rush in and demand that the Older Adult(s).....

1. Move from current home
2. Stop Driving
3. Insist bank accounts become joint
4. Accept conservatorship or guardianship

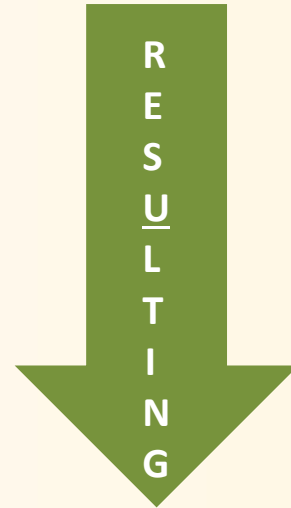


DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS



FINANCIAL
CONVERSATIONS
ARE HARD

- Refuse
- Deny
- Defend



- relationship damage
- cutting off all communication
- denial of a problem



WE NEED TO
TALK



Institute of Gerontology



MANAGING SOMEONE ELSE'S MONEY



Fiduciary

- What is a fiduciary?
- Types of fiduciaries:
 - Agent Under Power Of Attorney (POA)
 - Court Appointed Guardians (Conservators)
 - Social Security Representative Payees and VA Fiduciaries
- Basic rules of fiduciaries

FIDUCI - WHAT?



Four Basic Rules for Fiduciaries

- Act only in the person's best interest
- Be careful about managing the person's money or property.
- Keep the individual's money or property separate from your own.
- Keep good records of your spending and money management.



Acting in the Older Adults Best Interest

- Read the document and do what it says
- Understand when the document becomes effective
- As much as possible, involve the older adult in decisions
- Do not borrow, loan or give older adults money to yourself or others
- If the POA states you should be paid or the court allows you to do so under the conservatorship, be mindful of what you pay yourself
- Avoid changing wills or estate plans older adult has made
- Avoid Conflicts of Interest
 - Hiring family members to do work; purchasing a vehicle; etc



Success After
Financial Exploitation

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Institute of Gerontology



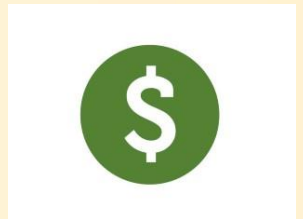
Managing Money or Property

- List all of the older adults property, money and debts
- Invest carefully
- Pay bills and taxes on time
- Collect debts
- Make a budget
- Collect outstanding debts owed to older adult
- Protect the older adult's property
 - You may need to use safe deposit boxes
 - Be sure insurance is up to date and paid promptly



KEEPING MONEY & PROPERTY SEPARATE

- Do not deposit older adult's money in your own or anyone else's account
- No joint accounts or other assets (Unless provided in the durable power of attorney or by judicial order)
- Keep all titles to the older adult's money and property in their own name
- Always sign documents as agent or conservator
- Be sure to pay the older adult's expenses from their own account and not your own.



Keep Good Records

- Keep a detailed list of all money you spend or receive
- Keep receipts and notes, even for small expenses
- Avoid paying for things in cash
- Again about getting paid????
- File your accounting with the courts (Conservators)
- File a final accounting after the older adult dies (Conservators)
- Social Security Payees and VA Fiduciaries must keep the agencies informed about older adults, so the agencies can adjust benefits accordingly



Financial Exploitation



Institute of Gerontology



Why Is Financial Exploitation Important

- Americans over age 65 comprise approximately 1/8 of our population, but about 1/3 of scam victims. (Kirchheimer, 2011, AARP Scam Bulletin)
- Studies reveal that “fraudulent telemarketers **direct** the majority of their **calls at older customers.**” (CLC)
- Older persons who have been scammed are **significantly less likely** to report being a victim. (AARP, 2011)



WHY ARE OLDER ADULTS TARGETS?

- Trusting and polite
- Lonely and socially isolated
- Vulnerable due to grief from loss of a loved one
- May be unfamiliar with managing finances
- Cognitive impairments
- Unfamiliar with the latest technology
- Discretionary income





COMMON SCAMS

Money

Lottery/Sweepstakes/Publisher Clearinghouse
Lower Credit Card Payments
Fraudulent/Fake Check Scam
Mystery Shopper-Fee to register/certification
Work from Home
Go Fund Me Scams

Fear

IRS Impersonation Scam
Jury Duty Scam
Collection Agency

Love &/or Good will

Grandparent/Friend Scam
Romance
Illness
Nigerian Prince/Princess



Fraud/Miscellaneous

Contractor/Home Improvement Scam
IT/Tech Support Scam
Fake EBay/Craig's List Utility
Charity
Gov't Grant Scams
Magazine Scam
Counterfeit Prescriptions
Telephone Scams - Robocalls
Medicare Card Scam
Lightning Strikes Twice
Spoofing-Fake # on caller ID
Cramming-unauthorized charges on accounts
Re-routing Social Security checks



WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK FOR IN OLDER ADULTS

- **Sudden** reluctance to discuss financial matters
- Sudden, **atypical or unexplained withdrawals**, wire transfers, or other changes in their financial situations
- Utility or other **bills not being paid**
- **New best friends and “sweethearts”**
- Onset or worsening of illnesses or disability
- **Sudden desire to change their wills**
- **Transfer of titles** of homes or other assets to other people for **no apparent reason**
- Large, frequent **“gifts”** to trusted others
- **Missing** personal property
- Large, unexplained and unexpected **loans** taken out by elders, such as student loans



SAFE Caregiver Empowerment Program Assistance

- Obtaining necessary legal documents
- Support with proper record keeping
- Filing consumer complaints and police reports
- Pulling and reviewing credit reports
- Assistance preparing budgets
- Coaching and support on difficult conversations
- Financial coaching services for caregiver's financial issues
- And more.....



No Cost

SAFE Coaching Services

No Cost

Zoom and Telephone Coaching Services



Contact
LaToya Hall
313-664-2608
L.hall@wayne.edu



Institute of Gerontology

