

How to spot the signs of financial abuse

A checklist to keep it safe & simple

○ Monitor bills and check bank statements

If bills are left unpaid or large sums of money have been withdrawn from a person's bank account, this could indicate they're not managing financially or have been scammed.

○ Be aware of unusual or seemingly unneeded purchases in the home

These items could have been mis-sold by unscrupulous cold callers or telesales companies.

○ Look out for unexpected changes to the person's house

This could include incomplete renovations, missing valuables or workmen visiting to carry out unnecessary work.

○ Be aware of sudden new friends or acquaintances

In particular, be aware of those who the person says are inquiring about moving in, taking trips together or making joint financial commitments.

○ Check that large amounts of cash are not being kept in the home

This could be a sign that the person with dementia is withdrawing large amounts of cash, which will put them at unnecessary risk of theft.

○ Talk to the bank

If you are a carer of a person with dementia and have concerns about financial abuse or wrongdoing, please alert your local Bank Manager.

Where to go for further help and advice

- planning your finances: **publictrust.co.nz**
- general money management advice: **cab.org.nz** or **consumer.org.nz**
- stop unwanted calls and junk mail: **marketing.org.nz**
- avoid scams: **scambusters.co.nz**

Who to call to report abuse

- if a crime is committed call the Police. In an emergency (if someone is in danger of immediate harm or a crime is being committed) call 111. At other times contact your nearest police station at **police.govt.nz**
- **ageconcern.org.nz** have local offices throughout the country, and can provide information, services and advocacy.

To learn more about dementia, or find out about support available visit **alzheimers.co.nz** or call **0800 4 Dementia (0800 433 636)**.

