

Future Planning

Older people can take action to plan ahead and protect their financial assets from potential abuse.

Prior to signing legal documents such as Powers of Attorney, three steps should be considered - STOP, CAUTION and GO.

Follow these steps to plan for a more secure future.

APEA Working Together

The Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (APEA) is comprised of agencies that are recognised as being key stakeholders in responding to the abuse and exploitation of older people. APEA works collaboratively to raise awareness and champion the rights of older people.

This pamphlet is No. 1 in a series of 5 to assist you in safeguarding your finances.

APEA Members

Legal Services Commission

Information, legal advice, and preparation of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Guardianship.

Tel. 1300 366 424 for Legal Help Line

Mon to Fri 9am to 4:30pm

Tel. 8463 3555 for free half hour appointments.

www.lsc.sa.gov.au

Office of the Public Advocate

Promotes and protects the rights of people with mental incapacity.

Tel. 8269 7575 or 1800 066 969

General enquiries Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm

www.opa.sa.gov.au

South Australia Police (SAPOL)

Prevents, detects and investigates reports of crime.

Tel. 131 444 to report a crime or for police assistance.

www.police.sa.gov.au

SAPOL's Home Assist Scheme

Provides crime prevention advice and services to assist older people and those with a disability, to safely remain in their own home.

Tel. 8204 2817

www.police.sa.gov.au

Public Trustee

Advice preparation and management of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Wills.

Tel. 8226 9200 or Toll free 1800 673 119

www.publictrustee.sa.gov.au

Aged Rights Advocacy Service

Provides support to uphold the rights of older people who are at risk of, or experiencing abuse by family or friends.

Tel. 8232 5377 or Toll free 1800 700 600

www.sa.agedrights.asn.au

Disclaimer: Information in this pamphlet is of a general nature to be used as a guide only. It is not a substitute for legal advice.

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Safeguard your Finances



APEA

Alliance for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Legal Services Commission
Office of the Public Advocate
SA Police
Public Trustee
Aged Rights Advocacy Service

Stop - Don't Sign Anything

Financial abuse is the misuse of your money or property by other persons who may be family or friends.

For example:

- Withdrawals of money from your bank account without your consent.
- Your assets sold, disposed of, or transferred in ways you don't agree with.
- Being denied money for things you need.
- Your Power of Attorney not acting in your best interest.
- Money you have loaned not being repaid.
- Pressure to change your will.
- Paying more than your fair share when living with others.

Caution - Get Advice First

Consider safeguards.

You can build safeguards into your financial arrangements.

Safeguards need to be considered in case of illness, accidents, mental incapacity, or because someone you trust may try to take advantage of you.

You will need advice on the impact of new financial arrangements on existing legal and financial commitments.

For example:

- Enduring Powers of Attorney.
- Gifting property.
- Loans and wills.

Safeguards can include:

Giving clear and written direction to those you choose to assist you.

For example:

- Nominees on your bank account.
- Donees of your Power of Attorney.
- Your financial manager.

Go - When You Know Your Options

Deciding what you would like assistance with:

- Paying bills.
- Selling property.
- Managing investments.
- Following your preferences for gifts/activities.

Choosing those who can help you:

- Even if you choose someone you trust now, you should build in safeguards to protect yourself in the future. Remember that most financial abuse is committed by people you know and trust.

Choosing when they are to help you:

- Immediately, or only if you lose the ability to make decisions.