



**NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.**

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## **Learn More About Financial Exploitation Risks at Community Presentation**

Elder Financial Exploitation is a crime that has been called the “Crime of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) and its Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program encourages the public to understand more about this issue and learn how to take steps to prevent financial exploitation.

Financial Exploitation is the illegal use of the money or property of a senior or disabled adult for another person’s profit. It occurs when a senior or disabled adult is tricked, persuaded or forced into handing over money or property to a son, daughter, other relative, professional caregiver, or a stranger. Unfortunately, it happens more often than you may think. A recent study found that financial abuse is reported in only 1 of every 44 cases. This means that criminal exploitation goes undetected and unaddressed in 43 of every 44 instances.

Financial Exploitation can occur *anywhere* - in the home, in nursing homes, or other long-term care settings and *anyone* can be a victim. It crosses all socio-economic groups, cultures, and races. Statistically, women and “older” adults are most likely to be victimized. Dementia is a significant risk factor. Mental health and substance abuse issues - of both abusers and victims - are strong risk factors. Social isolation can also contribute to risk.

A free presentation will be available on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> for the community to learn more about financial exploitation, the risk factors, and tips on how to avoid it. The event will be held at Adams County Regional Medical Center in Seaman, Ohio, from 10:00 am until 11:00 am. The information is being presented by the AAA7 Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Department through a grant from Healthpath Foundation of Ohio.

For more information or to register, please call the AAA7 Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Department at 1-800-582-7277, extension 21151, or e-mail [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org).

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis. These services are available to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and independently in their own homes through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay. The AAA7’s Resource Center is also available to anyone in the community looking for information or assistance with long-term care options. Available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, the Resource Center is a

valuable contact for learning more about options and what programs and services are available for assistance.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY: 711). Here, individuals can speak directly with a nurse or social worker who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. The Agency also offers an in-home assessment at no cost for those who are interested in learning more. Information is also available on [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org), or the Agency can be contacted through e-mail at [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org). The Agency also has a Facebook page located at [www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7](https://www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7).

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