



Signs of financial abuse



Financial or material abuse involves someone using or misusing money to control a person's actions and their freedom. Using an adult's funds, belongings or property without their permission. Types of financial abuse include scams (both online and in-person), theft, fraud, coercion of an adult for their financial affairs or arrangements – such as their will, property or inheritance.

Signs of financial or material abuse may include:

- Withdrawal(s) of sums of money from bank accounts, and/or via cashpoints
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Lack of money, food, clothing, heating
- Unusual activity in bank accounts
- Unpaid bills
- Unexplained shortage of money
- Internet or social media scamming, such as delivery of unexpected parcels
- Reluctance on the part of the person with responsibility for the funds to provide basic food and clothes etc
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming rights to a vulnerable adult's possessions
- Potential misuse of responsibilities by people with power of attorney for an Adult

If you recognise any of these signs and are concerned an adult is the victim of abuse, then it's essential you act on your concerns. 'Speaking out' about abuse could save somebody's life. If you are worried that an adult may be at risk of abuse or harm, please contact:



023 8083 3003
southampton.gov.uk/speakout

If there is an immediate threat to their safety, contact the police by calling 999.